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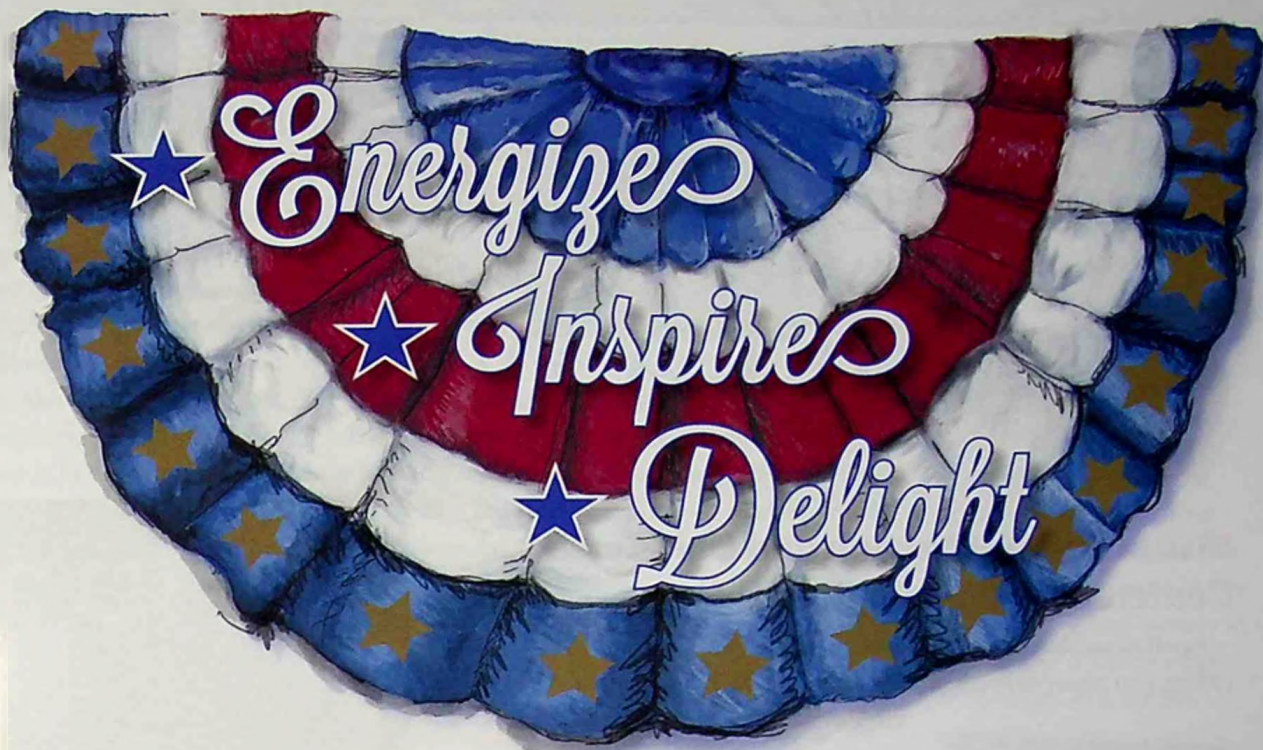


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All That Sparkles

With the President General

PAMELA WRIGHT

Visiting Mount Vernon and Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

April provided the opportunity for the NSDAR Executive Officers to observe the National Society's 107th Annual Pilgrimage to Mount Vernon. One hundred ten years ago, NSDAR adopted a resolution to honor George and Martha Washington annually by placing a wreath at their tomb. A second



wreath-laying was conducted at the Slave Memorial about 50 yards from the Washington tomb on a bluff above the Potomac River. This is the first time that Daughters have conducted a ceremony to recognize and honor the enslaved people whose skills, talents and spiritual strengths were an integral part of Mount Vernon.

District of Columbia DAR Chapters joined together by combining Celebration Grants to place an America 250! Patriot Marker at the grave of Elbridge Gerry, the only signer of the Declaration of Independence to be buried in Washington, D.C.

While at Congressional Cemetery, we ventured over to the grave of John Philip Sousa, the "American March King," most famous for writing "The Stars and Stripes Forever." We learned that he was a member of both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy as he was promoted to the permanent rank of lieutenant commander in the Navy Reserve during World War I.



SCAN TO
JOIN DAR

Past Librarian General and DAR Mentor Barbara Ulrich Remembered



The Connecticut Daughters gathered to dedicate a DAR Memorial Marker to past Librarian General Barbara Ulrich. Mrs. Ulrich was a devoted friend and DAR mentor to me and countless others as her words, support and many kindnesses always came at the perfect time.



SCAN TO
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Valley Forge National Historical Park Uncovers Untold Stories

Our Historic Homes section takes us to Valley Forge National Historical Park, home to the Isaac Potts House, a modest three-story stone abode that served as the headquarters of the Continental Army during the winter of 1777–1778. Alongside George Washington at Valley Forge was Martha Washington, who ran the household, planned social events for officers and their wives, and served as her husband's sounding board and confidant. Today, interpreters at the park are telling Martha's story, as well as the previously untold stories about the free and enslaved African-American individuals who lived and worked at the Isaac Potts House. See page 32.



Welcome to America

From 1892–1954, Ellis Island served as the “golden door” to 12 million immigrants. Today, about 40% of Americans count at least one of them as an ancestor. Read more about the immigration center—and DAR's involvement with Ellis Island—on page 8.

Celebrating ‘the Spirit and Meaning of the Constitution’

My delight is to share that the winning entry of the 2023 Constitution



Week Poster Contest was created by Elise Bittner, member of the Chief Senachwine DAR Chapter, Henry, Illinois. To see Ms. Bittner's poster, in which the “spirit and meaning of the Constitution” are truly embodied, and to learn about the nine-month creation process, turn to page 12.

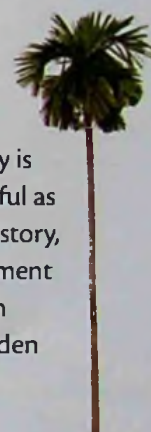


Corsair Prized for Speed and Agility in World War II

The versatile and attention-getting Corsair fighter-bomber helped the Allies gain a foothold in the South Pacific and victory in World War II. Learn more in the Stars and Stripes Forever section on page 4.

California Dreaming

California's geography is as diverse and beautiful as its people, offering history, adventure, entertainment and inspiration. Learn more about the “Golden State” on page 28.



The Smokies: America's Most Visited National Park

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park—famous for its black bear population, thousands of miles of streams and rivers, and mountain vistas that often appear “smoky”—welcomed nearly 13 million visitors last year. Straddling the border of Tennessee and North Carolina, the Smokies offer visitors an opportunity to learn about Cherokee Nation and Southern Appalachian history. Learn more about the “place of blue smoke” on page 38.



On the cover.

The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California.

RUDY SULGAN/GETTY IMAGES

CORSAIR

*Legend
of the Air*



**Versatile F4U Fighter-Bomber Helped
Allies Turn the Tide in World War II**

| By Jeff Walter |

Amid World War II 80 years ago, a formidable new American weapon appeared on the scene as the Allies fought for a strategic South Pacific foothold. The Vought F4U-1 Corsair—a fighter-bomber plane visibly distinguished by its inverted “gull wings,” extended nose and 13-foot propeller—soon proved indispensable in turning the tide.

Before the war was over, the versatile plane had earned multiple nicknames, among them “bent-wing bird,” “angel of Okinawa” and “whistling death.” It played a pivotal role in hastening the end of the six-year conflict.

Today, the F4U Corsair remains one of that era’s more revered and iconic planes, continuing to inspire awe at air shows and museums.

Built for the Navy ... Proved by the Marines

In February 1938, a year and a half before the onset of World War II, the U.S. Navy requested proposals for a new carrier-based single-engine fighter. Aircraft manufacturer Chance Vought, known for its biplanes, submitted two designs. The Navy chose one of those that June, signing a contract for a prototype.

Chance Vought, led by aeronautical engineer Rex Beisel, developed a distinctive design built around an 18-cylinder, 2,000-horsepower Pratt & Whitney R-2800 Double Wasp engine—the most powerful available—which made the plane capable of speeds exceeding 400 mph. It would become America's first single-engine fighter to break that barrier.

The unique look was not for show. The bent wings provided ground clearance for the huge propeller, and the short, sturdy landing gear was crafted to handle the stress of carrier landings. The new aircraft was fast, rugged and potent. While its standard firepower was six .50-caliber M2 Browning machine guns (three in each wing), modifications would accommodate cannons, bombs and rockets.

Test pilot Lyman Bullard Jr. flew the Vought XF4U-1 prototype on May 29, 1940. Production began in early 1942 at the Stratford, Connecticut, plant where Sikorsky Aircraft—like Chance Vought, a division of United Aircraft—had developed its groundbreaking VS-300 helicopter.

As demand for the F4U Corsair increased, the Navy would turn to additional plants. Goodyear built Corsairs in Akron, Ohio; Brewster made them in Long Island City, New York. However, the latter plant closed, plagued by production and quality control troubles; no Brewster plane made it to the front lines. The Connecticut plant produced more than 7,800 of the 12,500 Corsairs (in 16 variants) manufactured by 1952. In Stratford, parts were assembled on the factory floor, and sometimes a female pilot flew the completed Corsair to its final destination. (After the war, Vought shifted its F4U production to Dallas, Texas.)

Early on, several issues emerged during training that made the Navy reconsider the plane's suitability for use on carriers, where the tight landing space leaves little margin for error. The extended nose limited straight-ahead visibility from the cockpit; the left wing was prone to stall at lower speeds; the plane often bounced upon touchdown; and oil could leak onto the



★ **The bent wings provided ground clearance for the huge propeller, and the short, sturdy landing gear was crafted for the stress of carrier landings.**

windshield. Landing the aircraft was a challenge, particularly for inexperienced pilots, leading the Navy to designate the Grumman F6F Hellcat—which was slightly slower but easier to fly—for carrier operations.

Thus, the U.S. Marine Corps had the first opportunity to deploy the Corsair in combat operations from land bases. Meanwhile, the British Royal Navy acquired 2,000 of the planes. Only in late 1944, after the British had helped address the plane's landing issues, did the U.S. Navy begin deploying it from carriers. As Tim Hillier-Graves relates in *Widowmaker: Living and Dying With the Corsair* (Casemate, 2020), many British pilots died learning how to land a Corsair on a carrier.

The Solomon Islands and Okinawa

The Corsair saw its first combat action in mid-February 1943, when Major William Gise, a Marine pilot, led VMF-124, a squadron of 24 Corsair planes, to Henderson Field on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Days earlier, the Allies had captured Guadalcanal after a six-month campaign—their first major land offensive in the war—thwarting Japanese expansion efforts in the South Pacific. But, while the Japanese had abandoned that island, they remained a threat throughout the Solomons.

VMF-124's initial missions, as escorts for U.S. Army and Navy bombers on February 13–14, 1943, were inauspicious, as the pilots were still learning how to fly the new planes against fierce opposition. The Americans suffered heavy losses, including two Corsairs.

The number of Corsair aces would grow throughout the spring and summer of 1943 as the Allies steadily increased their foothold in the Solomons.

Accounts of airborne heroics reported by newspapers and savvy military publicists helped forge larger-than-life legends.

No one was more notorious than Marine Corps Colonel Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, credited with taking down 28 enemy planes. Boyington, who led the misfit VMF-214 "Black Sheep" squadron, was shot down by a Japanese Zero on January 3, 1944,

and detained in Japanese prison camps until August 29, 1945, just days before Japan's formal surrender.

Other top-tier Corsair aces included: Marine Corps Brigadier General Joseph Foss, who in three months shot down 26 enemy planes, becoming America's first World War II ace to tie Marine Corps Captain Edward "Eddie" Rickenbacker's World War I record; Marine Corps First Lieutenant Robert "Butcher Bob" Hanson, who died in action in February 1944; and Navy Captain John Blackburn, whose VF-17 "Jolly Rogers" was the first Navy fighter squadron to fly the Corsair in combat.

Famed aviator Charles Lindbergh got in on the action as a civilian, not only flying dozens of Corsair bombing missions with Marine Corps squadrons in 1944 but also helping devise ways to boost the plane's range and bomb-hauling capacity.

As Corsair pilots grew ever more adept at operating their craft, they took an increasingly heavy toll on their adversaries. By late 1944, Japan was running low on skilled pilots while its aircraft grew obsolete.

By now, the landing issues that had made the early Corsairs unsuitable for carrier deployment had been corrected—and, despite the heavy losses, the Vought F4U-1D and Goodyear FG-1D variants deploying from Navy carriers were effective in counteracting the *kamikazes*, as Bill Yenne details in *America's*



Gregory "Pappy" Boyington



Robert "Butcher Bob" Hanson



WWII F4U Corsair vintage fighter aircraft on the runway during a Los Angeles Air Show

Few: Marine Aces of the South Pacific (Osprey, 2022). Corsairs also played a key support role in the April 7 sinking of the *Yamato*, the world's largest battleship at the time.

When American forces secured Okinawa on June 22, they had "a vital airfield in the final drive on Japan, as the Allies finally brought about Japanese surrender less than three months later," according to the National World War II Museum website (www.nationalww2museum.org). And the Corsair had also been dubbed the "angel of Okinawa."

Through Korea and Beyond

By war's end, according to the museum, the Corsair had flown an estimated 64,000 sorties, downed 2,000 enemy aircraft, and lost just 189 planes in combat. Various models had also flown with the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom and the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

"As a fighter-bomber it had no superior, ashore or afloat," author Barrett Tillman concludes in *Corsair: The F4U in World War II and Korea* (Naval Institute Press, 1979).

The Corsair's effectiveness kept it in action for years after World War II. In addition to seeing action as low-flying rocket launchers during the Korean War, the planes saw use by France, Honduras and El Salvador.

Today, at the site of the Stratford plant, you can visit the Connecticut Air & Space Center (www.ctairandspace.org). There, in the former research and design hangar where Chance Vought conducted all its experimental testing during 1944–1948, the museum continues to take shape with the restoration of the Sikorsky Memorial Corsair, which was completed and test-flown in July 1945. 🇺🇸

'Rosie' and the Corsair: How One Woman Did Her Part

The wartime production of F4U Corsair fighter-bomber planes was possible only because of contributions of local women who, like others across America, answered the World War II call to replace men in factories and shipyards.

Victoria Corvino, a Stratford plant employee from 1943 through the end of the war, was a "Rosie the Riveter" assigned to the planes' center sections. Victoria, who died in 2005 at age 93, was one of several family members who worked at Chance Vought.

Today, her son Mark Corvino, a Stratford resident, is determined

to preserve this history. As president of the Connecticut Air & Space Center, he is actively involved in the ongoing restoration of a Corsair and the Curtiss Hangar, where Igor Sikorsky, Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh and Howard Hughes spent time.

Though Mark is too young to have firsthand memories of those days, he often heard the stories from his mother and his sister, who is 20 years his senior. Among those were recollections of aviation pioneer Sikorsky walking up and down the Corsair line, speaking to the women. "Mr. Sikorsky

was very kind to them," Mark said in a recent interview.

In a letter treasured by family members, Victoria shared other memories, including when a man from the hangar where the Corsairs were assembled came into her work area seeking "a small person with small hands." After her co-workers pointed her out, he led her to the hangar, where she reached through a hole and retrieved a nut that had fallen off a screw. That feat earned her colleagues' boisterous applause. "They said I was the heroine of the day," she wrote.

Mark said his mother recognized the importance of her day-to-day efforts. "She was proud of her role," he said.

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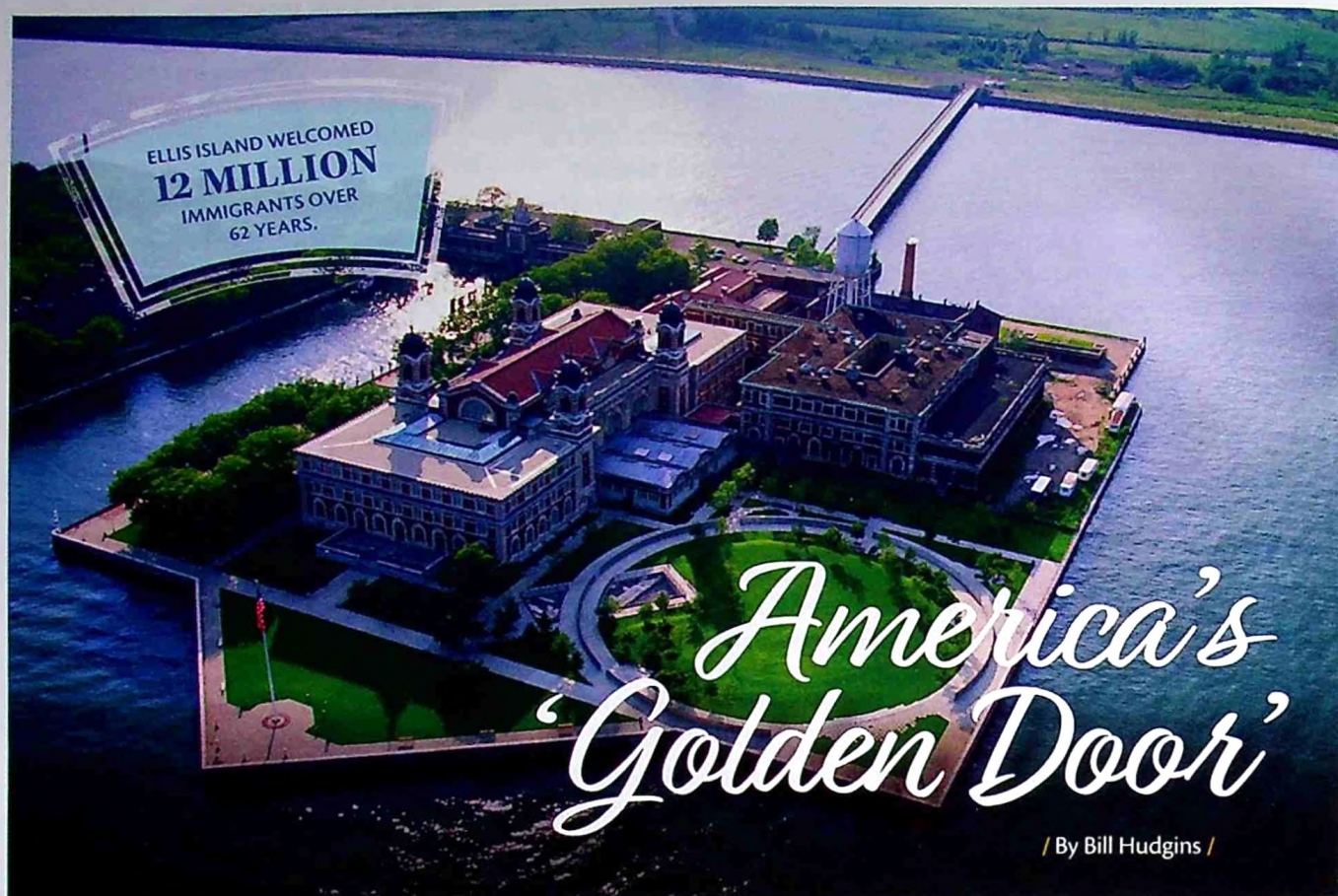
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On January 1, 1892, Irish teenager Annie Moore became the first immigrant to pass through the new federal immigration station on Ellis Island in New York Harbor. On November 12, 1954, Norwegian seaman Arne Pareli Pettersen was the last to leave the aging facility.

During the intervening 62 years, about 12 million immigrants arrived at Ellis Island, hoping to pass through its “golden door” to America. Today, an estimated 40% of Americans can claim at least one ancestor among those who succeeded.

Tiny, Yet Versatile, Island

Long before the island became the first federal immigration station, the Mohegan Indians called it *Kioshk*, or Gull Island. Dutch settlers who acquired it in 1630 renamed it Oyster Island because of its bountiful bivalves. In the 1760s, it earned the nickname Gibbet (another name for gallows) Island because convicted pirates were hanged there, according to the Save Ellis Island Foundation’s history.

The island changed names again in the 1770s when merchant Samuel Ellis bought it and erected a fisherman’s tavern. In 1808, anticipating another war with England, the United States purchased and fortified the island, which served as an arsenal in the War of 1812 and the Civil War before being abandoned until 1890, when Congress chose it to replace the city’s aging Castle Garden immigration center. (See the May/June 2020 issue of *American Spirit* to learn more about Castle Garden.)

Before 1890, states ran their own immigration programs in port cities such as Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and San Francisco. New York City, however, reigned as the primary doorway to America. From 1855 through 1890, Castle Garden processed more than 8 million immigrants.

But by 1890, Castle Garden could no longer handle the rising tide of arrivals. The federal government assumed control of immigration from the states, closed Castle Garden and appropriated \$75,000 for the new Ellis Island facility. Construction crews doubled the island’s size with landfill from arriving ships’ ballast and soil excavated for the city’s new subway system.

During construction, the Barge Office in Battery Park processed immigrants. Ellis Island opened on January 1, 1892, and Annie Moore and her two younger brothers were the first of 700 immigrants from three waiting ships to enter.

On June 15, 1897, a fire destroyed the wooden main building. No one died, but flames consumed records dating to 1840 and the Castle Garden era. Fortunately for future genealogists, the U.S. Customs Service's lists of passengers' names, ages and countries of origin survived. The Barge Office again served as a processing center during the building of a new fire-proof facility, which opened on December 17, 1900, welcoming 2,251 immigrants.

Coming to America

Whether an immigrant went through inspection at Ellis Island depended somewhat on their financial situation. First- and second-class passengers were considered affluent enough not to become a public charge. Inspected aboard the ship, they were allowed to bypass Ellis Island unless they were ill or had legal or political problems.

Inspections could take hours for the far more numerous third-class "steerage" passengers, who were ferried from the docks to Ellis Island. Officials reviewed their paperwork, including a 29-item questionnaire completed before the ship sailed.

This document asked immigrants for basic personal information—such as name, age and marital status—and if they had a trade or a job waiting. It also asked if they were anarchists or had been in prison, an insane asylum or an almshouse. Officials quizzed arrivals on their written answers and, if there were discrepancies, detained them for further inquiry.

Immigrants also had to pass a medical exam, commonly called a "six-second physical," because doctors had only moments to scan for multiple signs of illness, mental disabilities or poor health. Using chalk, officials marked immigrants suspected of having a medical condition with a letter of the alphabet ("S" for senility, "X" for insanity, etc.) and moved them to another examination room. They sent those with confirmed illnesses to the Ellis Island Hospital.

Officials detained people likely to become public charges, such as children and unaccompanied



Top: Immigrants arrive at Ellis Island. **Left:** Rows of faces create the stripes of an American Flag at the Ellis Island National Immigration Museum.



women, who could not leave the island with men unrelated to them. They also detained political

radicals, stowaways, criminals and prostitutes.

Though it was known as the "Island of Hope," Ellis Island was also known as the "Island of Tears" for those who were detained or refused entry. Nearly 20% of all arrivals were detained temporarily for health or legal reasons. Around 120,000 people were barred and deported, and some 3,500 died while waiting.

No More Open Door

For decades after the American Revolution, America had a virtually open-door immigration policy, welcoming those who wished to settle in the expanding nation.

Significant opposition to immigration emerged in the 1840s and 1850s as millions poured in, mostly German and Irish Catholics fleeing famine and political and economic troubles. Their arrival in largely Protestant America triggered the rise of anti-immigration nativist groups such as the virulently

DID YOU KNOW?

Although Ellis Island was the busiest immigration center, it was not the only one. There were other major U.S. arrival ports in the 19th and 20th centuries in cities such as Boston, San Francisco, Philadelphia and New Orleans. Angel Island Immigration Station, near San Francisco, opened in 1910 and processed up to 1 million immigrants before closing in 1940. The East Boston Immigration Station in Massachusetts operated from 1920–1954, processing an estimated 23,000 immigrants.

DAR Supports Ellis Island

DAR was founded in 1890, the same year the U.S. government chose Ellis Island to replace New York City's Castle Garden immigration center. DAR has been involved with Ellis Island throughout their mutual history, from sponsoring programs and teaching citizenship skills to supporting the station's restoration and preservation.

Starting in 1923, DAR provided what today would be called occupational therapy for detainees at the Ellis Island Hospital. The program offered sewing and needlework; woodworking; cabinetmaking; arts and music instruction; and exercise opportunities.

By 1940, DAR had contributed \$230,000 toward staffing the programs and donated 21,000 boxes of supplies for projects. Immigrants could either sell items they made to earn some money or keep them.

DAR also distributed millions of copies of its *Manual for Citizenship* in different languages. Many immigrants used the *Manual* to learn English as well as the basics of U.S. citizenship.

As immigration slackened in the 1930s, the hospital became known as the Marine Hospital because U.S. merchant seamen and Coast Guard members received care there. From 1934 through World War II, DAR provided occupational therapy programs for servicemen. Daughters donated money to hire therapists, who were assisted by volunteers and New York University students studying occupational therapy.

DAR's involvement with Ellis Island continued after it closed. Under President Generals Sarah M. King, Ann D. Fleck and Marie H. Yochim, DAR raised and donated \$771,000 to the 1986 centennial restoration of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

In 1988, DAR established the Ellis Island Restoration Committee, which raised \$750,000 for further restoration. DAR encouraged members to place an ancestor's name on the American Immigrant Wall of Honor, and it sponsored the New Americans Gallery, a room in the Ellis Island National Immigration Museum.

anti-Catholic secret Order of the Star-Spangled Banner founded in 1849, which evolved into the Know-Nothing Party.

The Know-Nothings wanted to limit immigration, raise the residency requirement for citizenship to 21 years, and bar immigrants from voting or holding office. The movement was popular during the early 1850s, but divided over the issue of slavery and faded away.

Around 1880, an even larger wave of immigration began building. Known as the Great Atlantic Migration, it is considered the largest voluntary human migration in history. Millions sought refuge in North and South America from political, religious and ethnic oppression; famine and economic pressures; and war.

Many of these arrivals were ethnically and culturally different from earlier immigrants with northern and western European origins. According to www.history.com, the Great Atlantic Migration included Russian and Eastern European Jews; Italians; Greeks; Poles; other East European peoples; and non-Europeans from Syria, Turkey and Armenia.

Anti-immigration forces increased demands for restrictions, citing fears of job loss and depressed wages; worries that radical ideologies would foment unrest; and concerns that anarchists, communists and criminals were infiltrating the throngs.

The federal government responded with a series of restrictions, beginning with the 1875 Page Act. This law barred prostitutes, criminals, people with contagious diseases, Chinese women and other "undesirables." The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act barred male Chinese laborers for 10 years.

World War I sharply curtailed immigration and spurred demands for further restrictions. The Immigration Act of 1917 established a "barred zone" banning all people from the Middle East to Southeast Asia. It also established a long-sought literacy test.

The Emergency Quota Act of 1921 limited the number of immigrants from any one country. The Immigration Act



Suitcase display at Ellis Island

of 1924 lowered those quotas and capped annual immigration from outside the Western Hemisphere at 165,000. The Great Depression cut immigration further—in some years, more people emigrated from America than arrived.

Long Decline, Then Rebirth

Immigration at Ellis Island peaked at more than 1 million people in 1907. It all but stopped during World War I, and the government used the mostly empty facility to detain enemy aliens and as a military hospital.

Immigration procedures also changed. The government set up embassies abroad and instituted the visa system under which hopeful immigrants underwent inspection and approval in their home countries instead of here in the U.S.

By the 1930s, Ellis Island was used primarily for detention and deportation. During World War II, as many as 7,000



Ellis Island National Immigration Museum, Great Hall

detainees, including German prisoners of war, were held there. The Coast Guard also occupied Ellis Island during World War II, establishing a training station for enlisted men and officers and using many buildings for offices and dormitories.

Ellis Island closed in November 1954, and the vacant buildings deteriorated as the elements and vandals took their

toll. When the island became part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument in 1965, overseen by the National Park Service (NPS), efforts began to repair the extensive damage. In 1990, the restored Main Building reopened as the Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

Save Ellis Island, a nonprofit organization, and the NPS continue working to restore other structures. The island receives some 2 million visitors annually, many of whom are searching for clues to their ancestry. 🌐

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THIS JULY 4TH:

EXPERIENCE 1776

What actually happened on July 4th? It's not when the Continental Congress voted to separate—that was July 2nd. On July 4th in 1776, delegates approved the *wording* on our Declaration. Learn more and ride through 1776 in the only historical novel about this founding document.

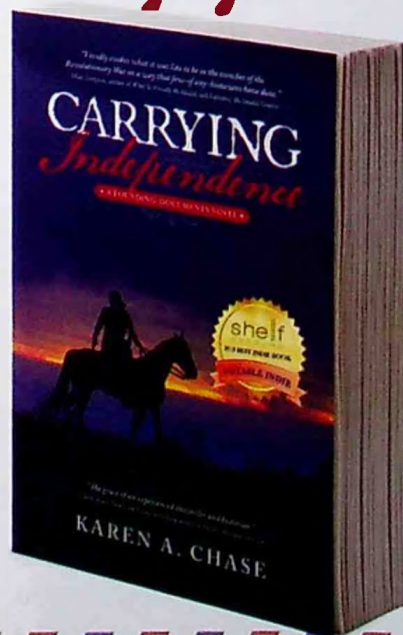
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Constitution Week



DAR
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Celebrating 'The Spirit and Meaning of the Constitution'

**Elise Bittner of Illinois Wins
Constitution Week Poster Contest**

By Elizabeth Mariano Mubarek

On September 17, 1787, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, 39 delegates at the Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution of the United States of America. These individuals spent four months creating and approving this document, which outlined a framework for the federal government of the new republic.

Nearly 170 years later, in 1955, DAR spearheaded an effort to set aside one week annually when Americans could celebrate this iconic signing, and the National Society petitioned Congress to dedicate the week of September 17–23 to observe the national event. Congress adopted this resolution, and on August 2, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Constitution Week into law. DAR has continued its dedication to commemorating this momentous occasion since the tradition's inception.

The DAR Constitution Week Committee leads the annual Constitution Week celebrations, consisting of events nationwide that honor the founding document and its signers. It all begins with Bells Across America on September 17, when bells across the country are rung simultaneously at 4 p.m. EDT, just as they were after the signing in 1787. The week also features displays in schools, public libraries, historical societies and other shared spaces, as well as at various events—all directed by local DAR Chapters.

Another hallmark of the Constitution Week Celebration is the associated poster contest, open to anyone regardless

of age, location or DAR affiliation. The contest's theme remains the same year to year: "The spirit and meaning of the Constitution." All submissions must reflect this theme in the form of original artwork.

This year's 2023 Constitution Week Poster Contest winner is Elise Bittner, a member of the Chief Senachwine DAR Chapter, Henry, Illinois. Ms. Bittner joined DAR in October 2014 and comes from a family highly involved in the organization's mission.

"My mom [Sharon Bittner] was the Regent two years ago for the Chapter, and she asked my sister and me if we would Chair a position each," Ms. Bittner said. "I became the Constitution Week Committee Chair, and my sister became The Flag of the United States of America Committee Chair. Her report on the DAR mural, which my poster is based on, is the reason that I picked that as the subject matter."

Ms. Bittner based her meticulously crafted poster on a painted canvas mural displayed in Constitution Hall at DAR Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The mural depicts 12 unique, historic American Flags, including the first Flag flown in 1774 as a symbol of revolt against British oppression; the first Flag displayed by George Washington on January 1, 1776; and the Flag unveiled on June 14, 1777, when the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act.

The winning poster depicts the eagle from the mural's center, flanked by two Flags. Prominently displayed are the words "We the People" and "Protected under the Constitution." The design is symbolic, as Ms. Bittner explained: "'We the People' is at the top, and then the 'Protected under the Constitution' comes in under the Flag. The Constitution is meant to protect 'We the People.' We may not be there perfectly, but the ideals should still be aimed for."

Creating the poster's intricate design took nine months. "It was a very long process," said Ms. Bittner, who has no formal art background. "You really come to appreciate what the original mural artist did in Constitution Hall when you get into all of the folds of the Flag. At that point, it was too late to turn back!"

Adele Lancaster, National Chair of the Constitution Week Committee and past State Regent of the California State Society DAR, said the committee chose Ms. Bittner's poster because it speaks to what the Constitution is and DAR's representation of itself. The committee also recognized the expertise of her submission and its attention to detail.

Entrants "must submit their original artwork, and one of the things we do is check it by looking very carefully at it in

order to make sure it is original artwork," Ms. Lancaster said. "You look at this year's submission from a distance, and it does not look like it's hand-done. It took some serious artistic work to do that."

On the backside of her poster entry, Ms. Bittner included the message: "I believe there is nothing that embodies the spirit of the Constitution as perfectly as these three simple words: 'We the People.'"

Ms. Bittner's design goal was to make her message immediately clear. While she is honored to be this year's winner, her goal was to draw attention to Constitution Week.

"It's more important to me to have a nice piece of artwork that can be shared and help spread the word about the Constitution—remembering what it should mean to all of us," she said. ☺



Elise Bittner

Enter Your Poster *Next Year!*

Are you interested in learning more about the Constitution Week Poster Contest and how to participate next year?

DAR members and non-members are invited. See the DAR Website for entry rules, found under Committees, Constitution Week, "Awards & Contests." All entries must be received by the Constitution Week Committee Chapter Chair or Chapter Regent by January 1, 2024.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this year's winning poster, designed by Elise Bittner, be sure to visit the DAR Store (www.shop.dar.org), where it will be available for purchase and in stock while supplies last.



Celebrating America's Upcoming Anniversary

America 250! Committee National Chair Kathryn Walker West shares some of the Committee's future plans and recent highlights.



250! Commendation and certificate from South Carolina State Regent Bonnibel Glasgow Moffat and America 250! Committee National Chair Kathryn Walker West for his fundraising efforts to help develop the Hanging Rock Battlefield park.

Bobo, a junior at Indian Land High School, is a dual-enrolled student at the University of South Carolina Lancaster. For his project as state president, he created the "Hanging on the Edge of Freedom" project, which supports developing the Hanging Rock Battlefield park by supplying historical interpretive exhibits; leading efforts to clean up the grounds and remove graffiti; blazing hiking trails; and sharing the stories of the men who fought in the August 1780 battle. This American victory in Heath

Springs, South Carolina, was part of the Patriots' effort to remove the British after the siege at Charleston.

Bobo has raised more than \$24,000 for his state project. The money has funded outdoor interpretive exhibit panels that will educate visitors on the historical significance of

Plans to Celebrate the 13 Original States Are in the Works

The DAR's road to America 250! goes beyond the opening skirmishes of the American Revolution to the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. During the Wright Administration, the America 250! Committee will celebrate the contributions of states that played key roles in winning our independence from Great Britain. Each of the 13 original states is expected to be showcased between now and 2033.

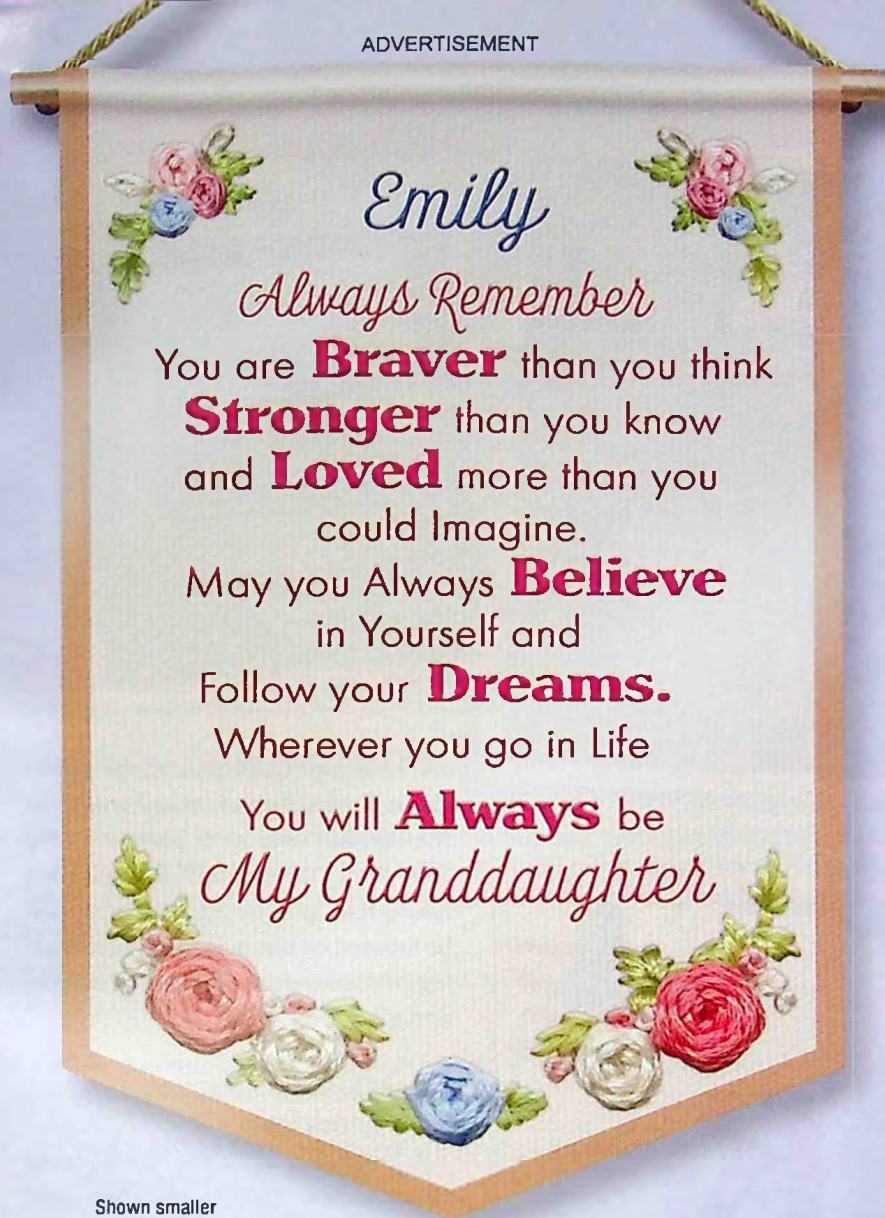
For now, plans are underway to celebrate Connecticut and Pennsylvania in 2024 and Massachusetts and New York in 2025. America 250! Committee National Vice Chair-Events Lori Walters will lead visits to historic places, service projects and dedications honoring the remarkable contributions each state and its citizens made in those early days.

South Carolina N.S.C.A.R. President Recognized for Fundraising Efforts

At the South Carolina State Society's 2023 state conference, Gray Bobo, president of the South Carolina Society of the Children of the American Revolution, received the America



this battle and share the stories of the Patriots who fought in it, including the Catawba Warriors and a then-13-year-old Andrew Jackson. In September 2022, Commemoration



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and Education Day educated the public about the battle and shared stories of the Patriots who took part in it. The 2022 Park Day focused on creating a hiking trail, and the 2023 Park Day will be focused on removing graffiti, including gold spray paint on the DAR marker, and groundskeeping.

Hawai'i Honors Patriot John Kendrick

In December 2022, the Hawai'i State Organization (HSO) installed and dedicated a DAR bronze marker commemorating John Kendrick, an American sea captain who died in Honolulu Harbor in 1794, at Walker Park in Honolulu. The marker was installed on an in-ground concrete pedestal and dedicated on December 12, the 228th anniversary of Kendrick's death. Members from DAR and the Sons of the American Revolution attended, as did local news outlets.

The HSO and its four DAR chapters—Aloha, Haleakala, Hawai'i Loa and Kauai—received America 250! Celebration Grants totaling \$2,500 to finish paying for the fabrication and installation of the concrete pedestal. 🇺🇸



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Once finished, contact the Office of Development by calling (800) 449-1776, we would love to talk with you about leaving a patriotic legacy. Or if it is more convenient for you, complete the enclosed reply card so that we can thank you for your gift and recognize your support. *Yes, it really is that easy!*



When you include DAR in your estate plan, you may qualify for Founders Club recognition. Members of the Founders Club receive many benefits and are committed to preserving the past and investing in the future of DAR. To learn more, or to request a complimentary estate planning kit, please complete and return the enclosed reply card today.



Leave a Patriotic Legacy.

Patriot's Creole Descendants Comprise Heart of Louisiana Chapter

By Lena Anthony

Several Patriots hail from Louisiana, thanks to the brazen Spanish governor Bernardo de Gálvez, who assembled an army, beat back the British and accidentally aided American independence along the way.

One of these Patriots was Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer, who had come to Louisiana from France in the mid-1760s, eventually settling in Natchitoches Parish, where he became known as a merchant, plantation owner and father of 10 children by his slave, Marie Thérèse dite Coincoin. Metoyer was part of the company that Gálvez dispatched to Mobile, Alabama, in 1780 to fight the British, according to *A Dictionary of Louisiana Biography: Ten-Year Supplement 1988–1998*, published by The Louisiana Historical Association. The Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution and the Louisiana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution honored him as a Patriot on October 7, 2011.

In 2019, the Cane River DAR Chapter, Isle Brevelle, Louisiana, was established with 28 founding members, most of them Creole descendants of Metoyer and Coincoin.

It is not that these women did not know about their lineage. After all, genealogy and history run deep in the tight-knit Isle Brevelle community situated along the Cane River. But perceptions, specifically misperceptions about all DAR does, played an outsize role in the group's birth, recalled Chapter Regent Peggy Aycock, who suggested they form a chapter of Coincoin's descendants.

"We were making tamales one afternoon at church and were talking about what we do in our free time," said Mrs. Aycock, who is not Creole. "I was new to DAR myself, so I told them about the organization and all of the things we do around historic preservation, education and patriotism."

Next, Mrs. Aycock invited Charlotte White, who was preparing for her term as Louisiana State Regent, to speak at a

prospective member workshop. "As State Regent, one of my goals was to help organize chapters to honor all of the different cultural groups we have in Louisiana who contributed to the Revolution," Mrs. White said. "I knew the Cane River community played a part, but I also knew it might be hard to get them interested."

Skepticism wasn't the only sentiment at the meeting; there also was excitement.

"As I listened to the presentation, everything about the DAR mission stood out to me as something that our community could benefit from," said Nicol Delphin, Chapter Corresponding Secretary. "They spoke of historic preservation grants we could apply for, scholarships we could award to our youth, and patriotic ceremonies we could have for our servicemembers, past and present."

It was enough for Mrs. Delphin to stand up and announce to her fellow Metoyer descendants: "I think we need this."

From there, Mrs. Aycock and Mrs. White worked to obtain wills and death certificates, traveling to cemeteries to take pictures of headstones—whatever it took

to prove lineage for as many interested Metoyer descendants as possible. "The rest is history," Mrs. Aycock said. "This is the best group of ladies imaginable. They are so loving and easy to work with and are always up for an adventure, a challenge or both."

There is Mrs. Delphin, of course, and Minnie Metoyer, Mrs. Delphin's mother and Cane River Chapter Chaplain. Several members also mentioned Carolyn DunnMiller, whose professional experience in computer and internet technology consulting translates into every chapter meeting being recorded and streamed for faraway members in places including California, Ohio and New York. Bianca Alexander performs her Chapter Recording Secretary duties from New Mexico, where she is a principal at a Navajo school outside Albuquerque. Nazy LaCour is the resident baker who infuses every cake she makes with love and kindness.

And the chapter is growing. An Application was verified this spring, and two more are pending. "I want to help anyone who is a descendant of Coincoin become a member of DAR because I think it's such a win-win," Mrs. Aycock said. "Joining DAR is a way to celebrate your individual connection to our nation's founding. It's also a way to make sure DAR reflects the great diversity of the people who made it possible." 🌟



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DAR's Americana Collection Includes Complete Set of Declaration, Constitution Signatures

/ By Jeff Walter /

The DAR Americana Collection has Button Gwinnett's elusive autograph.

That rarity is a holy grail for collectors, the one item lacking in many an otherwise complete set from the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. Gwinnett, one of three signers from Georgia, died at age 42 on May 19, 1777, days after being wounded in a duel. Few examples of his signature exist.

"DAR is most fortunate to possess an excellent example of Gwinnett's signature on a September 3, 1761, document as a subscriber of the Charity School of Wolverhampton, concerning the apprenticeship of his ward, Charles Povey, to a buckle maker," said DAR Director of Archives and History Tracy Robinson.

The National Society's complete sets from the signers of the Declaration and the U.S. Constitution are cornerstones of the Americana Collection maintained by the Office of the Historian General. These 4,000 pre-1830 manuscripts and imprints include Colonial-era diaries, household inventories,

Colonial-era currency, birth and marriage records, land deeds and grants, court records, and military papers. While the focus is on Colonial America, the Revolutionary War era and the early Republic, the collection spans five centuries, back to an English Bible dating to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558–1603).

In addition to the signers collections, Robinson highlighted three other favorites from the Americana treasure trove:

- **The bound Foreign Dignitaries Collection.** Signatures and manuscripts represent every global power during the Revolution, including Louis XVI of France, George III of England and Christian VII of Denmark.
- **A collection of six letters related to British Loyalist activities in and around present-day Hoboken, New Jersey.** Robinson said these letters "shed light on the 'other side' of the conflict."
- **Manuscript items related to Revolutionary War General Henry Knox and his family.** There are 30 letters, a Knox signature clipping and a multiple-page autobiographical manuscript written by his daughter Lucy Knox Thatcher.





(1) DAR possesses Declaration of Independence signer Button Gwinnett's signature on a 1761 document. (2) This May 14, 1783, letter from Thomas Knox to William Bayard asks if any "outrage has been committed" against Loyalists around Hoboken, New Jersey. (3) George Washington wrote this letter to General Jedidiah Huntington when Huntington retired from the Army. (4) In this October 1801, letter, President Thomas Jefferson encourages Gideon Granger, Esq., to accept the position of U.S. Postmaster General. (5) Catherine the Great's signature is included in the bound Foreign Dignitaries Collection. (6) This autograph book features the signatures of Abraham Lincoln and members of his Cabinet.

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The Americana Collection acquires several new items yearly through member donations or DAR purchases, with only a few publicly displayed. Researchers wishing to use the collection should contact the department for an appointment.

The Office of the Historian General also manages the NSDAR Archives of Society business records. 📄

Learn More!

Sample the Collection

Learn more about the Americana Collection at www.dar.org/archives/collections. View online exhibits at www.dar.org/archives/online-exhibitions.



The DAR Long Range Planning Commission Is a 'Think Tank' Committed to Improving the Society's Future

By Megan Hamby

Have you ever wondered what the Long Range Planning Commission does? You are not alone. Authorized by Continental Congress in 1987 as an administrative committee, the Commission works behind the scenes to assess the future needs of DAR and ensure its viability. It has two main responsibilities: formulating the DAR strategic plan for the next five to 10 years and developing recommendations to address issues assigned by the President General and Executive Officers.

The Commission is made up of 12 DAR members, each serving up to nine years. The terms are staggered, with new members appointed at the beginning of each administration to replace the retiring members, said Cynthia Parnell, National Chair of the Long Range Planning Commission and Honorary State Regent for Oregon.

"Members have different backgrounds, experiences in DAR and skill sets," Mrs. Parnell said. "We have women who are proficient in marketing, finance and business and others who are skilled in genealogy, junior membership and C.A.R. The idea is that the women on this Commission are a think tank with years of service in both DAR and in business and genealogy. We have a wide range of talent among us."

During each administration, the President General presents the Commission with various topics and

current issues, tasking its members with researching each issue and developing recommendations for the Executive Officers to consider.

The Commission meets collectively once a month via Zoom, but breakout teams of three to five people working on individual topics might meet more frequently. The group meets in Washington, D.C., three times a year for all-day meetings and research sessions.

What is discussed in these meetings is strictly confidential. Members of the Commission are encouraged to think outside of the box as they approach various issues and explore options. Not all recommendations are adopted and implemented. "We may give the President General and Executive Committee 10 recommendations, and only two or three are implemented," Mrs. Parnell said. "Our intention is not to hide anything from members, but to

not start rumors based on what we are researching."

If recommendations given by the Commission are adopted and implemented, the Executive Committee will recognize the Commission's contributions. For example, in 2017, the Commission was asked to research ways to streamline the DAR scholarship application process. At the time, students emailed or mailed applications to the Office of the Reporter General or the National Vice Chairs of specific scholarships. The Commission researched multiple companies that could host scholarship applications, analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of every option. Finally, Commission members drafted a detailed report with all 12 members' signatures to present to the President General. The recommendation was adopted, and in 2019, DAR began using AcademicWorks as its online scholarship platform, creating a more efficient process for reviewing applications.

"We are open to researching anything the President General asks of us," Mrs. Parnell said. "We're here to help determine what is best for DAR today and into the future." 🇺🇸



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DAR Today Podcast Committee Aims to Reach Out Beyond Membership

By Megan Hamby

One of the strategic goals of the Wright Administration (2022–2025) is to “propel membership growth by welcoming descendants of American Patriots while retaining our treasured Daughters.” One way the Administration hopes to achieve this two-part goal is through the new “DAR Today” Podcast.

The DAR Today Podcast Committee was formed in July 2022, at the onset of the Wright Administration. “We want to reach as many people as possible and shout from the rooftops all that DAR is doing,” said Brooke Bullmaster Stewart, National Chair of the DAR Today Podcast Committee. “There are too many people who have no idea what DAR is, let alone what our mission is and who we are as members. The podcast is another way to reach out to the public and educate our own members.”

The committee is made up of 11 members, all of whom have experience in audio/visual work, writing and editing, or graphic design. “This committee is unlike any other DAR committee where the prerequisite is a passion for DAR,” Ms. Stewart said. “We, of course, wanted committee members who are passionate about our mission. But they also had to have the technological know-how.”

The committee has a shared calendar where members add content ideas and ask for feedback. Although Ms. Stewart

hosts the podcast, the other committee members work behind the scenes, writing scripts, editing stories and producing the show.

“What I love most about our committee is that we come from different backgrounds, ages and talents,” Ms. Stewart said. “Mrs. Wright wanted all voices to be represented on this committee because ultimately all voices need to be represented in the podcast. Our committee members come from different professional and DAR experiences, and this helps us create a well-rounded show.”

“DAR Today” releases a new episode on the 15th of every month. Episodes cover a range of topics or focus on one specific theme. In July, Ms. Stewart said, the focus will be on sparkling highlights of the 132nd Continental Congress. In August, the theme is women’s health and women’s issues; the podcast will feature the Women’s Issues Committee, covering financial health, literacy, mental health, physical health and more.

The podcast is available on all major streaming platforms, such as Apple, Spotify, iHeart Radio and Google. A video version of the podcast, with pictures and graphics on screen and the occasional Zoom interview, is available on the DAR National Headquarters YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/todaysdar. 🎧

Editors Note In the Washington, D.C., “Travel Log” story in the May/June 2023 issue of *American Spirit*, we stated that the Rose Garden could be seen during the White House tour. However, it is the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden that is visible. We also should have noted that the tour covers multiple rooms in the White House’s East Wing and on the State Floor. We apologize for the error and omission.

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If you are a direct descendant from a colonial militia officer who served during the Revolutionary War, you should consider becoming a member of the SDOCM, a new heritage organization devoted to preserving the history of the militia during the American Revolution, educating the public about the role of the colonial militia, and supporting our modern-day national guard.

Any person aged eighteen years or older is eligible for membership, provided lineal descent is proven from an officer who served in the colonial militia between April 19, 1775 and November 26, 1783. Approved record copies of DAR, CAR or SAR applications are accepted with no further proofs necessary.

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Daughters Online Community Gives Members Opportunity to Connect and Engage

By Megan Hamby

This year, DAR launched the Daughters Online Community (DOC), a place for DAR members to interact, share resources and gather ideas. “We live in a culture where constant communication is an expectation,” said Public Relations and Media Committee National Chair Kate Johanns. “The DAR Members’ Website is an incredible source of information, but you can’t engage with other members. That’s where the Daughters Online Community (DOC) comes in.

“In previous years, the chairs of national committees have relied on Facebook private groups for member engagement and sharing information,” Ms. Johanns continued. “However, we identified several problems with using Facebook as a primary means of communication. Many members are not on Facebook for a variety of reasons, and we did not like the idea of using a third-party platform to share information.”

Planning for the DOC started at the onset of the Wright Administration in July 2022 and was announced during Sparkle in Service Leadership Week in October. In February, with the help of more than 170 volunteers and staff, the private online community officially opened for all members to explore.

The team assigned to creating the DOC chose Higher Logic, a platform that integrates with the DAR e-Membership database. The only people with access to the DOC are current DAR members and staff. The DOC links to the e-Membership database, so if someone drops her DAR membership, she will automatically be removed from the DOC. This feature ensures that DAR information and conversations remain private.

The DOC has online communities where Daughters can participate in conversations specific to national committees, officer roles and other interest areas.

“Mrs. Wright also wants to include affinity groups for Daughters to connect beyond DAR-related interests,” Ms. Johanns said. The first affinity group created was an adoption group, open to any Daughter who has adoption in her life story. DOC administrators are also looking at creating a group for



mothers of children with special needs, Daughters who are active-duty service members, and Daughters who are veterans.

“One of the things that surprised me the most is the tenor of the conversations in the DOC,” Ms. Johanns said. “It is so much deeper and more productive than I ever imagined it would be. I think there’s something about the intentional nature of participating in the community and format that makes it a richer experience than Facebook ever was.”

Get Started in the Daughters Online Community

Public Relations and Media Committee National Chair Kate Johanns gives these six steps to jump in and get started on the DOC.

- 1. Visit <https://community.dar.org> to sign in.** If you have e-Membership access, use those credentials. If you do not, click “Click Here to Reset” and follow instructions to set up your password. The password reset email will go to the email address on file in e-Membership.
- 2. Set up your member profile.** Once you are signed in, click the circle in the top right corner to upload a profile picture and fill out your profile.
- 3. Join a community.** More than 40 national committees have communities on the DOC. Also included are affinity groups about topics unrelated to DAR—and there are plans to add more.
- 4. Add your contacts.** Once you are in the community, you will see suggested contacts. Add your friends—or people you want to get to know!
- 5. Post in a discussion thread.** Start a conversation—or join one currently taking place!
- 6. Upload a photo in your post!** Either copy and paste the photo into the post, or click on the photo icon to upload a photo from your device or Facebook. Visit the DOC tutorials section for step-by-step instructions.

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Applying Genealogy Research Techniques to DAR Applications

DAR's GEP 2 Course Builds Upon Skills Learned in GEP 1

Do you know how to prepare a DAR Application or Supplemental Application? It can be tricky without the right training. That is why the DAR Genealogy Department offers robust Genealogy Education Programs (GEP 1–7), providing budding and seasoned genealogists with the skills needed to prepare DAR Applications or Supplemental Applications successfully.



GEP 2 (Applying Genealogy Research Techniques to DAR Applications) is divided into nine lessons that help Daughters build upon the skills learned in GEP 1 (Introduction to Genealogy Research for DAR Applications). Though not required, members are strongly

encouraged to take the classes in order, said DAR staff genealogist and GEP Coordinator Danielle Teyssier. GEP 2 lessons include:

- Tour of the Application Process
- Acceptable Lineage
- Acceptable Service
- Components of the GRS
- Preparing for the Application Process
- Completing the Application Form
- Final Details for a Finished Product
- e-Membership
- Communicating With the Office of the Registrar General

In these lessons, members can expect to learn how to analyze lineage documentation, identify acceptable types and sources of Revolutionary War service, and meet proper completion and documentation for submitting DAR Applications, according to current DAR procedures.

Like the GEP 1 course, lessons consist of videos, worksheets, transcripts and quizzes. To progress through the course, you must achieve a passing score on the quiz for each lesson, and five attempts are available for each quiz.

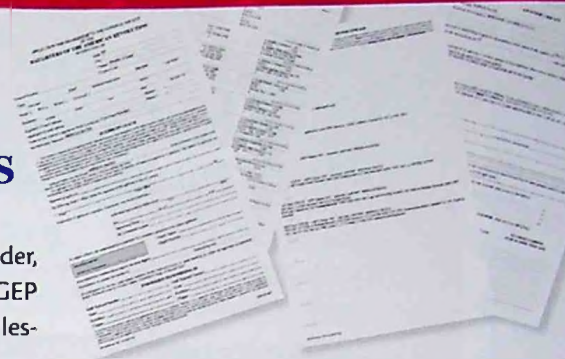
The registration fee of \$75 allows 90 days of access to the course. To sign up, follow these instructions:

> Register for Bridge, the DAR's learning platform, at https://selfbridgestration.custom-bridgeapp.com/sign_up/gep.

> Next, visit www.nsdar.mysshopify.com to create an account using the same email address used for Bridge.

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The Society of Indiana Pioneers



To Honor the Memory and the Work of the Pioneers of Indiana

Regular membership is open to anyone who can prove direct descent from at least one ancestor who settled in Indiana on or before December 31, 1840, except for the following counties which have a settled date by December 31, 1850: Adams, Benton, Blackford, DeKalb, Fulton, Howard, Jasper, Jay, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Newton, Noble, Porter, Pulaski, Starke, Steuben, Tipton, Wells, White, and Whitley.

Membership applications are available from the office manager:

Society of Indiana Pioneers
140 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

317.441.8293
IndianaPioneers@gmail.com
www.indianapioneers.org



Learn More!

Learn More About GEP Courses!

- Visit the DAR Members' Website through www.dar.org/members.
- Click on "Genealogy" at the top of the page.
- In the gray box on the right of the page, click "Genealogy Education Programs (GEP)."

Ideas, Ideas, Ideas!

Engage in Our Collective DAR Mission of
Historic Preservation, Education and Patriotism



Distinctly DAR

This photo depicts hatboxes lined up at the New Hampshire State Organization's recent state conference before its memorial service. ★

Achieving Triple Crown Distinction

DAR Leadership Training National Chair Trish Jackson created a special recognition ceremony and certificate for New Hampshire Daughters who had graduated from all three DAR Leadership Training Courses. The graduates all wore three tassels, one for each course, as they participated in a jazzy graduation march into the conference room. Mrs. Jackson then presented each graduate with a Triple Crown certificate. Does your chapter or state society have members who have passed all three courses? Honor their effort, dedication and increased DAR knowledge by acknowledging them in a Triple Crown ceremony. ★



Treats for Enjoy-mint

Do you need a fun idea for a place setting that can double as a party favor? Columbia Chapter, Columbia, South Carolina, created this graphic and attached it to Doublemint gum packs for its 129th chapter anniversary luncheon in May 2022. Chapter Regent Connelly-Anne Bartle Ragley designed the graphic using Canva and has recreated it for more than 100 chapters since sharing Columbia Chapter's on Facebook. (Read more about using Canva for chapter projects in the March/April 2023 issue of *American Spirit*.) ★



CONNELLY-ANNE BARTLE RAGLEY

Celebrate America

WITH FELLOW CHAPTERS

Does your chapter want to purchase and erect an America 250! Patriots Marker, but you are worried about the cost? Follow Massachusetts District IV's lead and join forces with other chapters.

Eight chapters in Massachusetts recently came together to fund an America 250! Marker and dedication at the Old Burial Ground, a resting place for 65 Revolutionary War veterans, in Sturbridge.

Under the direction of Massachusetts District IV Director Diane Isaacson, Captain Job Knapp, Captain John Joslin Jr., Colonel Timothy Bigelow, Deborah Wheelock, Framingham, General Ebenezer Learned, Prudence Wright and Wayside Inn Chapters each filed for an America 250! Celebration Grant of \$500. The Massachusetts State Society also applied for the



Learn More!



Apply for a DAR Celebration Grant:

- Visit the DAR Members' Website at www.dar.org/members.
- Under "Committees" in the top navigation bar, click "America 250!"
- In the gray box on the right, click "Celebration Grants."

grant, giving the district enough money to cover the marker and installation, Massachusetts State Regent Carolyn Nutt said.

The marker dedication took place on March 17, as part of the Massachusetts State Society's state conference.

"It was a beautiful day," Ms. Nutt said. "The marker is in a highly visible location, in a town that really loves and honors its Revolutionary War Patriots."

"District IV is so proud to have placed the first DAR America 250! Marker in Massachusetts," Ms. Isaacson said. "The Old Sturbridge Burial Ground has been the site of annual ceremonies and tours each year honoring our American Patriots and educating local students and community members about the founding of our nation—a perfect place to promote DAR membership and commitment to historic preservation, education and patriotism." ★



CAROLYN NUTT, DIANE ISAACSON

HONORING LOCAL VETERANS

Members of the Penelope Terry Abbey DAR Chapter, Enfield, Connecticut, placed American flags near the town hall building, on the Town Green, for the Fourth of July. Each flag, known as "The Sum of Sacrifice," represents an Enfield resident who was killed in action. An attached card includes each person's name, dates of birth and death, branch of service, and the war in which they served. ★



SHARON SKOWERA

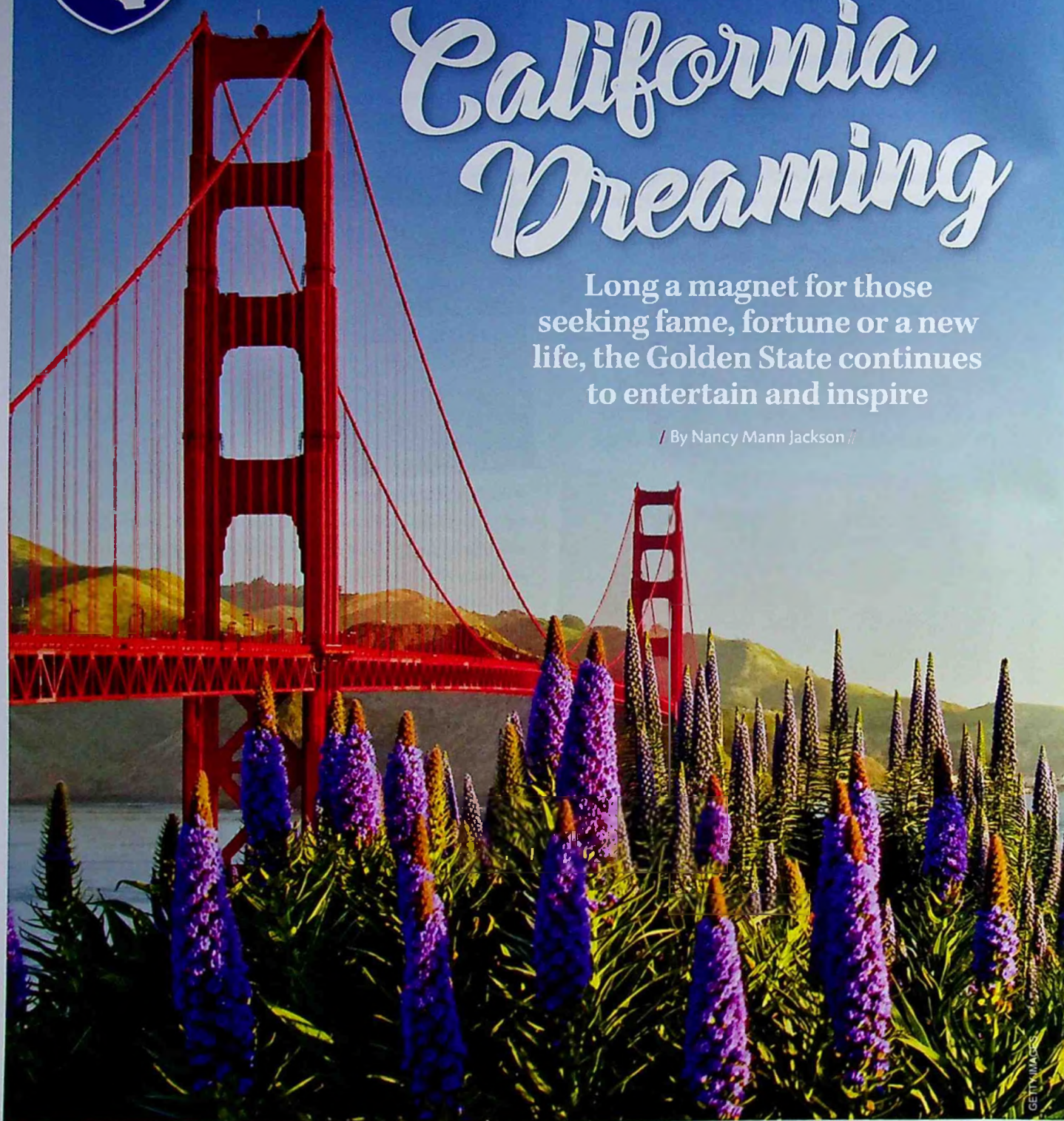


★ TRAVEL LOG ★

California Dreaming

Long a magnet for those seeking fame, fortune or a new life, the Golden State continues to entertain and inspire

// By Nancy Mann Jackson //



GETTY IMAGES

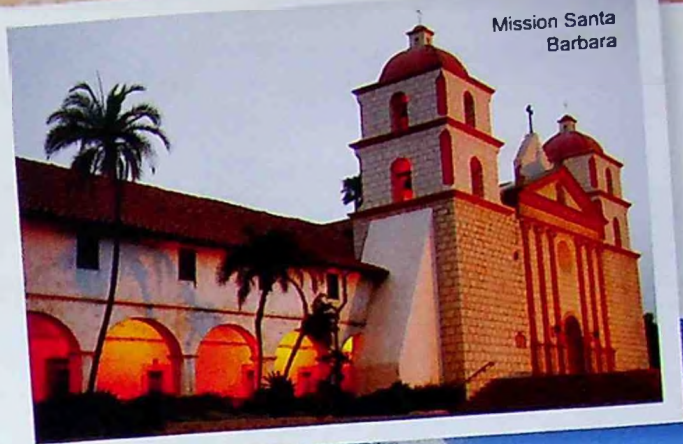
With mountains, beaches, redwood forests and deserts, the geography of the Golden State is as diverse as its people. First settled by American Indians, California has, over the years, become home to people from every continent, and each group has influenced the state's unique culture and history. Whether you are looking for history, adventure, entertainment or inspiration, California can provide it. And with comfortable weather year-round, it is always a good time to visit this West Coast state.

Getting to Know the Golden State

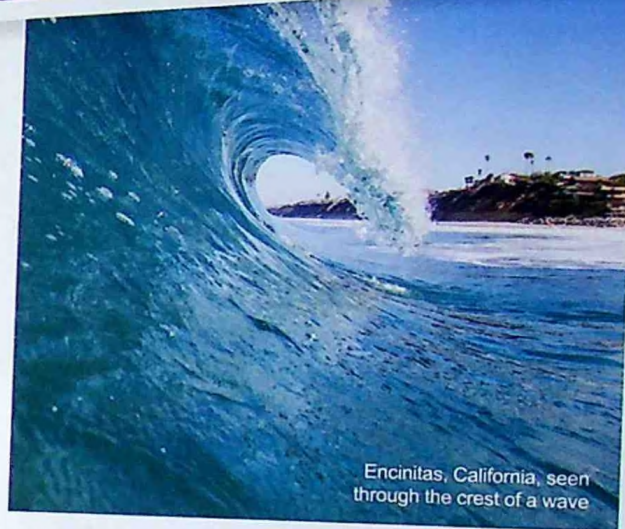
As revolutionaries in the 13 Colonies grew increasingly disgruntled with British rule, the first European colony was just getting started on the other side of the continent. Spain launched its first colonizing expedition to "Alta California," as the Spanish called the territory, establishing the Presidio Real de San Diego in 1769 as the first permanent European settlement on the Pacific Coast.

San Diego became the first of 21 Spanish missions that extended along the California coast. At the missions, Spanish missionaries converted Native Americans to Christianity and taught them various skills. Spanish conquerors divided California into four military districts, each under the jurisdiction of a presidio that protected several missions and the surrounding land area. In addition to San Diego, they established presidios in Santa Barbara, Monterey and San Francisco.

The Spanish mission system ended in 1821 when Mexico won its independence from Spain. At that time, California became a Mexican territory rather than a Spanish colony. Still, the Spanish mission system left a lasting imprint on the state's people, landscape, architecture and culture. Travelers can visit most of the original 21 Spanish missions,



Mission Santa Barbara



Encinitas, California, seen through the crest of a wave



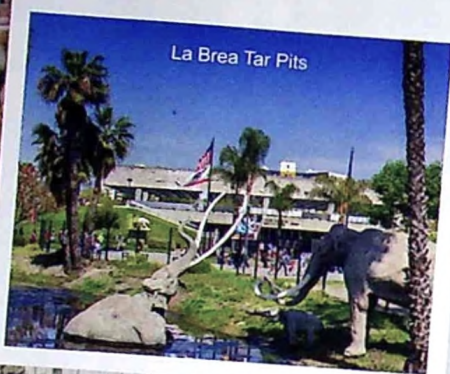
located in cities and towns along the coast, to experience the unique artwork, gardens, architecture and history of each one. (For example, the City of Santa Barbara still uses part of the original aqueduct built for its Spanish mission, and Alfred Hitchcock filmed part of his classic film *Vertigo* at the Old Mission San Juan Bautista.)

On February 2, 1848, Mexico and the United States signed the Treaty of Hidalgo Guadalupe, ending the Mexican-American War and yielding California and other areas of the Southwest to the United States. Just over a week earlier, on January 24, James Marshall had quietly discovered gold at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California. News spread of the discovery, and by 1849, the California gold rush brought approximately 300,000 people to California from across the United States and worldwide.

The fortune hunters who headed to California seeking gold, known as forty-niners, quickly transformed the formerly rural territory into a booming economic machine



Balboa Park



La Brea Tar Pits



San Francisco cable car

dotted with cities and towns where open land had been only months before. They also brought a wide variety of cultural and ethnic diversity, paving the way for a long-lasting California culture of diversity and economic opportunity. In 1850, California became the 31st state in the union.

If you plan a trip there, consider experiencing some of these historic and cultural highlights and sights.

SoCal Connections

Since San Diego started as the first Spanish mission in California, the city has changed and grown into a vibrant, diverse destination. Balboa Park features 17 museums,

historical sites and performing arts venues. At the USS Midway Museum, you can board one of America's longest-serving aircraft carriers and peruse more than 30 restored aircraft.

Beyond museums and history, San Diego offers miles of beaches, the world-famous San Diego Zoo, caves, gardens, parks and a burgeoning culinary scene.

From San Diego, consider driving north on the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), also known as State Route 1 and Highway 101,

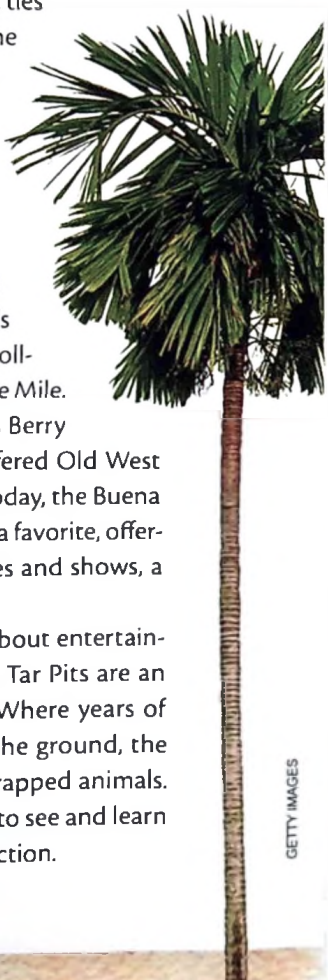
to Los Angeles. The PCH stretches more than 650 miles within California and is one of the most scenic highways in the world, offering views of the rugged coastline, dramatic cliffs, pristine beaches, historic sites and charming beach towns.

A few hours north of San Diego, Los Angeles is another must-see California city. Known for its ties to the film industry, the LA area is home to Hollywood, Disneyland and the Dodgers baseball team.

Movie buffs can take a behind-the-scenes tour of Paramount Pictures, Universal or Warner Brothers film studios, or find the names of their favorite stars along Hollywood Boulevard. You can get your shopping fix in Beverly Hills and soak up culture and history by strolling through the museums along Miracle Mile.

California's first theme park, Knott's Berry Farm, started as a family farm that offered Old West adventures in its 1800s Ghost Town. Today, the Buena Park destination is a Southern California favorite, offering a theme park known for thrill rides and shows, a water park and a hotel.

But Southern California is not just about entertainment; in the heart of LA, the La Brea Tar Pits are an active paleontological research site. Where years of natural asphalt has seeped up from the ground, the tar pits have preserved the bones of trapped animals. Visit the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum to see and learn about fossils and watch geologists in action.





Northern National Treasures

While Southern California is known for its beaches and laid-back lifestyle, Northern California is famously home to wine country, a rugged coastline and the world capital of technology—Silicon Valley, home to companies like Apple, Cisco, eBay, Meta (Facebook), PayPal and Zoom.

In 1776, Spanish explorers settled in San Francisco as Colonial Americans began fighting for their independence from Great Britain. Today, the international city is known for its iconic Golden Gate Bridge; busy and diverse neighborhoods like Chinatown; and Alcatraz, a notorious former maximum-security U.S. prison now open for tours.

While visiting San Francisco, ride a cable car along the city's steep streets—Lombard Street is well-known for its zigzags. The Walt Disney Family Museum, featuring the life and work of the pioneering animator, movie producer and visionary, is at the Presidio of San Francisco, part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

About two hours south of San Francisco, you will find the unique neighboring coastal towns of Monterey and Carmel-by-the-Sea, where you can visit the world-class Monterey Bay Aquarium and its Kelp Forest. Historic Cannery Row, once home to sardine canneries, is now lined with shops and restaurants. Consider hiking at Point Lobos State Park and shopping on Ocean Avenue in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

California ... the Golden State!

Home of 21 historic Spanish missions, majestic mountains, beautiful deserts and sparkling beaches.
There's a California dream for everyone!

—SHARON MAAS, CALIFORNIA DAR STATE REGENT

North of San Francisco, the Napa Valley wine region is known for hundreds of vineyards where travelers can participate in wine tastings, tour vineyards and experience unique gourmet foods and shopping. Climb aboard the Napa Valley Wine Train, a vintage locomotive and traveling restaurant running through the valley.

Northern California also offers inland adventures and rare natural beauty. California's Sierra Nevada mountain range is home to Sequoia National Park, Kings Canyon National Park and Yosemite National Park. Visitors are often awed by the giant, ancient sequoia trees; the granite cliffs of El Capitan and Half Dome; and the towering waterfalls, vistas and views. Hit the trails, climb the rocks or just take a drive to soak in the breathtaking natural landscapes of the Golden State.

From widely varied geography to a melting pot of cultures, foods and economic successes, today's visitors can experience the richness that results from centuries of dreamers and doers making their mark in California. 🌄

★ HISTORIC HOMES ★

TO THE OFFICERS AND PRIVATE SOLDIERS
OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY
DECEMBER 19, 1777 JUNE 19, 1778

A Patriot Army **WAS FORGED HERE**

Valley Forge National Historical Park
Includes George Washington's Headquarters

/ By Emily McMackin Dye /

The hilly, windswept landscape of Valley Forge—the encampment site of the Continental Army during the winter of 1777–1778—has become synonymous with the hardships endured by Patriot soldiers and the fortitude that transformed them into a formidable fighting force. Monuments, exhibits and buildings that make up the 3,500-acre Valley Forge National Historical Park in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, pay tribute to the perseverance of a diverse group of soldiers from disparate Colonial militias who emerged from that brutal winter as a stronger unit.



moving in was that his officers must “set their watches by the clock in the front room,” which displays a grandfather clock from the era.

“I like the house to look lived in,” said Dona McDermott, an archivist at Valley Forge National Historical Park. “I like having items sitting around that show the habits of the people who were there or those of the time period.”

Detailed records, such as daily orderly books and inventories of items Washington brought with him or acquired while at camp, have allowed McDermott and other interpreters at the Isaac Potts House to recreate the atmosphere of the headquarters, down to the china, carpets and personal items.

“The records tell us so much about what the day-to-day must have been like,” said Greg Purifoy, a visual information specialist at the park.

A Bustling Headquarters

On December 19, 1777, on the heels of bruising defeats at Brandywine and Germantown and the British occupation of Philadelphia, General George Washington marched the Continental Army to Valley Forge to rest, recuperate and regroup for the winter.

The location, just 18 miles from Philadelphia on a high ridge above a creek valley, allowed the Army to keep an eye on British forces and protect surrounding farms from enemy raids. Its proximity to the Schuylkill River was also crucial for transporting supplies.

While soldiers got to work building trenches, redoubts and log huts, Washington scouted a secure location for a headquarters so he could stay near his troops and maintain

At the center of the park is the Isaac Potts House, a modest three-story stone abode that served as the headquarters of the Continental Army during the six-month encampment. There, Washington and his aides-de-camp discussed military strategy with other generals, organized training to prepare troops for battle, lobbied politicians and dignitaries for desperately needed support, and kept the hopes of the Revolution alive through one of its most trying periods.

Today, the home looks much as it did when Washington resided there, with nearly 80% of the structure original to the era, according to park records. Visitors can peruse rooms meticulously reconstructed with period furnishings and reproductions of items known to belong to Washington and his staff. One of the first orders the general issued after



The Isaac Potts House reflects the architectural style of a Philadelphia townhouse. The almost 250-year-old structure is estimated to be 80% original to the encampment era.

★ ★ ★



Possible aides-de-camp office



pressure on the British while tackling supply shortages and planning for pivotal battles in the months ahead.

He found a suitable site in the Isaac Potts House, along a roadway easily accessed from all points of the camp. Built by the Potts family, who operated iron forges and gristmills in the area, the home was naturally defensible, surrounded by mountaintops to the west and the river to the north, along with rows of log huts occupied by Washington's guards.

Its owner, Isaac Potts, vacated the home after the British burned down a nearby forge with a hidden cache of Army supplies in September 1777. Potts rented it to a relative, Deborah Hewes, who agreed to lease the house and its furnishings to Washington and his military and household staff.

For its tight quarters, the home was a bustling place. Washington's entourage had more than 25 people, including officers, aides-de-camp, servants, cooks, housekeepers and maids. When Martha Washington arrived in February 1778, she brought five of her own servants.

The downstairs room on the right possibly served as an office for as many as 10 aides-de-camp, including Alexander Hamilton and John Laurens, who copied official documents, managed correspondence and engaged in planning sessions with Washington. At 2 p.m. each day, papers were put away, tables were pushed together, and English creamware was removed from the recessed cabinet to transform the office into a dining room. In the evening, tables and chairs were pushed aside to make room for beds. The long hours working and living closely together forged a deep bond between Washington and his aides that continued for the rest of their lives.

To the left of the entrance was Washington's office, where he issued orders, met with generals and entertained prominent guests who visited Valley Forge, including local mayors and tribal leaders, foreign ambassadors and officers, and members of the Continental Congress. In January 1778, congressional committee members arrived at camp to observe the condition

of soldiers, many of whom lacked proper clothing, shoes and nourishment. By the end of the visit, Washington had convinced them to funnel more money, supplies and reinforcements to the Army.

The Marquis de Lafayette, a commander at Valley Forge, frequently visited headquarters, even riding there once to warn Washington of an unsuccessful plot to overthrow him as commander in chief. Another likely visitor was Prussian officer Baron von Steuben, who taught soldiers European-style combat skills and how to fight as a unified army.

Washington's Closest Confidant

Every morning, Washington would come downstairs to his office to perform morning rituals, like shaving, and savor rare moments alone in the crowded house. Afterward, he would return upstairs to have breakfast with Martha in their bedroom, which she used as a sitting area during the day.



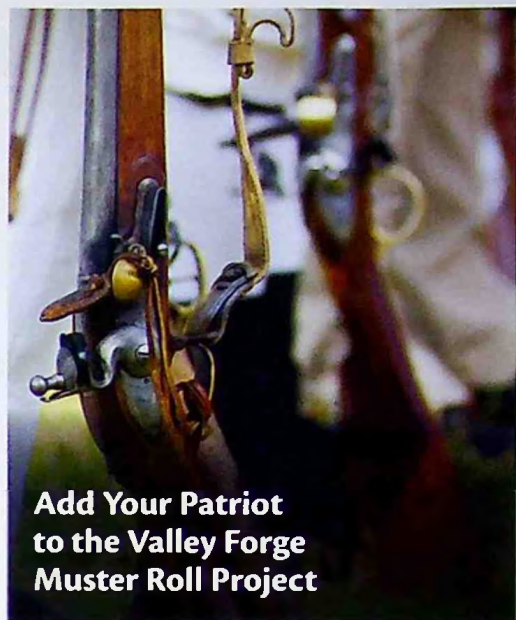
Left: A writing desk in General Washington's Headquarters; Right: A possible aides-de-camp bedroom



"She tried to make the house feel as much like home as possible, though she did complain about it being too small," McDermott said.

Martha's presence at Valley Forge was significant, McDermott says. Not only did she calm the general's temper, but she was also his sounding board and secretary, copying letters and representing him at official functions. Martha ran the household, organizing meals for Washington and his guests and planning social events for officers and their wives. On February 22, 1778, she hosted one of the first public celebrations of Washington's birthday, baking a cake and gathering a group of fifers and drummers to serenade him at headquarters.

She even accompanied Washington into camp, where she nursed and comforted sick soldiers stricken by a massive disease outbreak that claimed 2,000 lives—a gesture that boosted the morale of the men, women and children there. At times, she acted as Washington's liaison.



Add Your Patriot to the Valley Forge Muster Roll Project

Do you have a Patriot who served at Valley Forge? You can add them to the Valley Forge Muster Roll, a digital project spearheaded by the Valley Forge Park Alliance to commemorate the lives of those at the encampment from December 19, 1777–June 19, 1778. The Continental Army used monthly muster rolls to track the Army's strength, with each roll containing soldiers' names, ranks, enlistment dates, and other notes on their assignments, activities or conditions. Thanks to volunteer efforts, these rolls are now available virtually, and new entries are welcome with the following documentation:

- > Payroll stub
- > Application for a pension
- > Discharge papers
- > Original muster roll records

You may also contact the Alliance to provide additional information about individuals currently listed on the Valley Forge Muster Roll. For more information, visit www.valleyforgemusterroll.org.

In April 1778, she received a contingent of Quaker women from Philadelphia who came to headquarters petitioning for the release of their husbands, who had been jailed for refusing to take the loyalty oath.

Uncovering Untold Stories

The home's remaining bedrooms were shared by aides-de-camp or reserved for Valley Forge's prominent guests. Accommodations were rustic—except for the Washingtons, most of the household slept on folding military field cots. Household staff slept in the attic or, possibly, in the adjoining kitchen connected to the house via a stone archway. Headquarters got so crowded at one point that Washington built a log cabin outside to escape the commotion and dine privately with his officers.

Lately, interpreters at the home have uncovered more about the lives of the free and enslaved African-Americans who helped manage the household, such as pastry chef Hannah Till. She and her husband, Isaac, were leased by their owners to Washington. Through an agreement with the general and their enslavers, they were both able to purchase their freedom after the encampment ended. Hannah continued to work for Washington and later for Lafayette as a salaried cook during the war.

Hannah and Isaac had three children by the time they started working at Valley Forge, and Hannah gave birth to a fourth child in January 1778.

"There were families growing in the house at the same time it was being used as a headquarters," Purifoy said. "It just gives you a different perspective on what it meant for these enslaved families to support an Army that was fighting for freedom, when most of them had no possibility of gaining freedom themselves at the time."

Spurring a National Park

In June 1778, Washington led the Army out of Valley Forge to retake Philadelphia

and pursue the British into New Jersey, where the forces faced off in the Battle of Monmouth.

The Isaac Potts House became a family residence until its 1879 purchase by William Holstein, whose wife, Anna, served as regent of the Centennial and Memorial Association of Valley Forge—a group formed to preserve the landmark and surrounding acreage. The association took ownership in 1886 and began restoring the home. Local efforts to preserve Valley Forge's history spurred the development of Valley Forge State

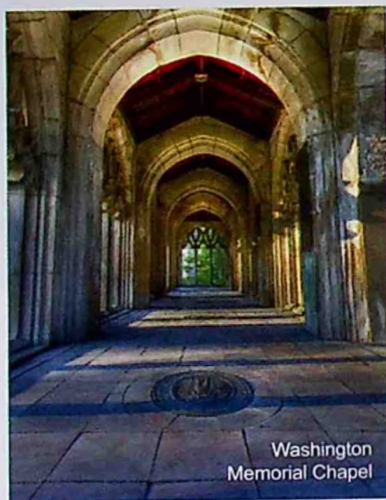
Park, which acquired the home in 1905, and later Valley Forge National Historical Park, established in 1976.

Along with Washington's Headquarters, the park features other must-see sites, including reconstructed log huts of the Muhlenberg Brigade, cannons at Artillery Park, and National Memorial Arch, which commemorates the sacrifices made and lives lost during the Valley Forge encampment.

Another spot for reflection is Washington Memorial Chapel, built in the early 20th century as a monument to Washington and the Patriots of Valley Forge. The Gothic Revival chapel is home to the Justice Bell, a replica

of the Liberty Bell used during the suffrage movement, and the Washington National Memorial Carillon. Composed of 58 tuned bronze bells—one for each state and several territories—the carillon is housed in the National Patriots Bell Tower, completed in 1953 with funds raised by the NSDAR.

The carillon, which is entirely played by hand, "adds another dimension to the atmosphere at Valley Forge," chapel carillonneur Doug Gefvert said. "It draws people to the chapel and hopefully inspires them." 🎵



Washington Memorial Chapel

Washington's Headquarters is open seven days a week from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Check out the Valley Forge National Historical Park website (www.nps.gov/vafo) for abbreviated hours on national holidays. In January and February, the Isaac Potts House is open only on weekends, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Presidents' Day from 10 a.m.–4 p.m.



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'PLACE *of* BLUE SMOKE'

*Air of mystery beckons visitors to
Great Smoky Mountains National Park*

/ By Kim Hill /

From many vantage points, the long vistas across the Great Smoky Mountains appear misty or smoky, with a hazy, bluish blur to the ridges and peaks. The Cherokees called the Great Smoky Mountains "Shaconage," translating to "place of blue smoke." When European settlers moved into the valleys and hollows, they adopted the Cherokee name and later added the "great" moniker to reflect the size and beauty of the mountains.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, established in 1934, straddles the border between Tennessee and North Carolina. The "Smokies" are part of the Appalachian Mountains and among the oldest mountains on earth. In addition to the ancient peaks, the vast park offers a historical look at rural life more than a century ago; abundant opportunities for wildlife watching and wildflower viewing; and more than 800 miles of trails. The Smokies are consistently the most visited national park in America, with nearly 13 million visitors in 2022.

The Cherokee: Original Inhabitants of the Smokies

The Cherokee Nation's history in southern Appalachia extends back thousands of years. They lived in small villages, and the women did the farming and harvesting work while the men did the hunting. However, the Indian Removal Act in 1830 gave

President Andrew Jackson authority to grant unsettled lands west of the Mississippi in exchange for occupied Indian lands in existing states. Federal troops swept into Cherokee territory in the mid-1830s and herded people into stockades; some evaded capture, hiding in the mountains and becoming the ancestors of what is now the Eastern Band of Cherokee

Indians. Those captured were forced to march west on the "Trail of Tears," beginning in October 1838. Thousands of people died during this tragic journey.

Visitors of the Smoky Mountains can learn about this and other pivotal points in Cherokee history at the award-winning Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, North Carolina. The town is the headquarters of the Qualla Boundary, an area of tribal-owned land, and the home of Oconaluftee Indian Village, a replica of an 18th-century Cherokee settlement serving as a living history museum.

Creating a New National Park

Decades before troops drove the Cherokee from the area, white settlers had arrived in the mountains, living off the land by hunting, clearing land to grow food and raising livestock. These agricultural patterns changed with the arrival of the logging industry in the early 1880s. Within 20 years or so, loggers had cut forest in about two-thirds of what became the park.





Blue Ridge Parkway
scenic landscape at
sunset over Great Smoky
Mountains National Park

Several individuals who shared a deep love for the mountains and its people supported the idea of a national park to help preserve the remaining forest. These included author and outdoorsman Paul Fink; pharmacist David Chapman; author Horace Kephart; photographer George Masa; political leaders Ben Morton and Mark Squires; newspaper publisher Charles Webb; and Tennessee State Legislator Anne Davis, credited with suggesting the idea after visiting several national parks in the American West.

President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill authorizing the establishment of the national park in May 1926. Unlike the lands in national parks such as Yosemite or Yellowstone, which were already under government control when established as parks, the lands that would become the Great Smoky Mountains National Park were owned by large logging companies as well as hundreds of small farmers and homesteaders. Because the federal government could not buy land to create a national park, raising funds was

up to private groups and organizations, individuals and even schoolchildren. The Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association (GSMCA) spearheaded the fundraising efforts, ultimately raising \$5 million. Philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr. matched the total, donating another \$5 million in honor of his late mother. In 1934, Tennessee and North Carolina donated a combined 300,000 acres of land for the park, and the money raised supported the purchase of an additional 150,000 acres from individuals and logging companies.

A few homesteaders who resisted selling their land secured short-term or lifetime leases so they could stay in their homes. The Walker Sisters may be the most famous example. Six unmarried sisters who had inherited their father's farm maintained their mountain lifestyle for decades. However, they also sold fried pies and handmade items such as crocheted doilies to curious visitors who trekked to their cabin. Today, visitors can hike up Little Brier Gap Trail, which starts in Wears Valley, Tennessee, to see the homestead the sisters loved so fiercely.

Exploring the Smokies

Because most families simply walked away after receiving payment for their land, many historic buildings have been preserved. The Mountain Farm Museum in Cherokee,



North Carolina, is a collection of farm buildings assembled from locations throughout the park. At Roaring Fork, the Noah "Bud" Ogle Nature Trail, near Gatlinburg, Tennessee, offers a walking tour of an authentic mountain farmstead, including a streamside

mill and Ogle's handcrafted wooden flume system to bring water to the farm. Cataloochee Valley feels isolated; however, just over 100 years ago, more than 1,200 people lived there. With the community dispersing after the park's creation, tour homes, Palmer Chapel and Beech Grove School were all abandoned.

Elkmont Historic District started as a logging town before evolving into a place for weekend or summer retreats for the wealthy of Knoxville, Tennessee. Elkmont is primarily a campground today, but many historic structures have been restored, including the Appalachian Clubhouse and cabins along Jakes Creek.

The granddaddy of scenic drives is Newfound Gap Road, which bisects the park. The road climbs more than 3,000 feet through Southern cove hardwood, pine-oak and Northern hardwood forest to the spruce-fir forest at Newfound Gap. Just south of the gap, take the steep half-mile trail to the observation tower at Clingmans Dome, the highest peak in the Smokies, offering 360-degree views and one of the iconic park experiences. Cades Cove, one of the most popular destinations in the Tennessee section of the park, is served by the 11-mile Cades Cove Loop Road, where you can see three churches, a working gristmill, log houses, barns, and many other 18th- and 19th-century buildings.

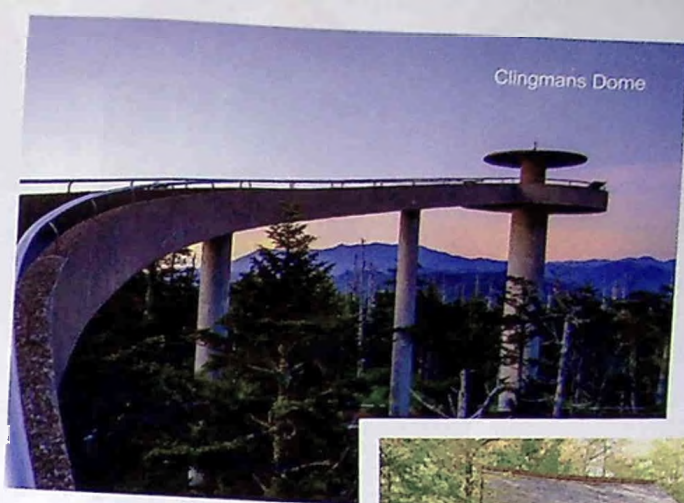
Over 2,000 miles of streams and rivers descend from mountain peaks, forming more than 100 waterfalls within the park. The Deep Creek area is home to several trails with views of falls. Walk a short distance or prep for an all-day, strenuous hike; either way, hoofing it is the best way to explore. About 70 miles of the famed Appalachian Trail pass through the park, shadowing the North Carolina-Tennessee border. Other popular activities include horseback riding, fishing and camping.

Mountain Towns Beckon Visitors

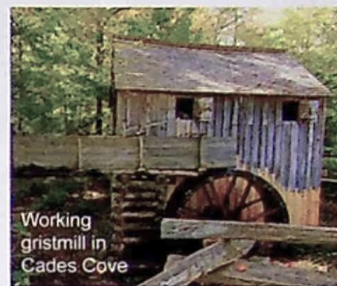
There is more to the Great Smoky Mountains than horseback riding, hiking trails and camping. Regional towns such as Asheville, North Carolina; Gatlinburg, Tennessee; and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, make the perfect home base for a day spent in the mountains.

Asheville, about an hour and a half from the entrance to the Smokies, offers a culture rich in arts, music and history. George Vanderbilt's French Renaissance castle, Biltmore Estate, is in the heart of Asheville and open for tours of the home, gardens and winery.

Pigeon Forge offers visitors amusement parks, large-scale resorts and entertainment—including Dollywood, Dolly Parton's iconic theme park that welcomes more than 3 million people each year.



Clingmans Dome



Working gristmill in Cades Cove

Just 7 miles away is Pigeon Forge's sister city, Gatlinburg, just outside the national park's boundary. A series of complex wildfires destroyed much of the bustling town in late November 2016, but the close-knit community has rebuilt much of the area.

Flora and Fauna Abound

Biologists estimate 1,900 black bears live in the park, one of the largest protected areas in the east where they can live in the wild. Open areas like Cataloochee and Cades Cove offer some of the best opportunities to see black bears, as well as elk, white-tailed deer and other animals. Salamanders make up the largest percentage of vertebrate animals in the park, giving the park the moniker the "Salamander Capital of the World." For a few short weeks in early summer, synchronous fireflies put on a light show, typically in the Elkmont area.

More than 1,500 kinds of flowering plants are found here, more than any other U.S. national park. From trillium to flame azaleas, columbine to mountain laurel, blooming abounds nearly year-round. Autumn's brilliant palette of colors brings a surge of visitors to the park.

A Mysterious Hinterland Still Beckons

Author Horace Kephart, who helped establish the national park, wrote of his experiences living in the area in his 1913 book, *Our Southern Highlanders*. Kephart called the Smokies a "mysterious beckoning hinterland ... an Eden still unpeopled and unspoiled." One hundred years later, it is still possible to find tranquility in the unspoiled stands of forest across the rise and fall of these mysterious peaks. 🌿

Clockwise from left: Spotted salamander; mountain laurel flower; flame azalea blooms; luna moth; jack-in-the-pulpit





Members of a Connecticut chapter worked together to create this red poppy dress. The dress was fashioned from crepe paper sheets as part of a Veterans Day window display.

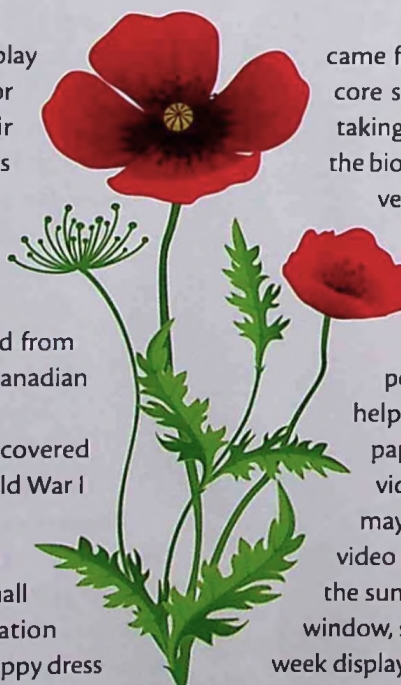
Note: The logo used in the signage was the former DAR logo, but a refreshed version was created in 2019.



Poppies to Remember

This poppy dress window display helped one DAR chapter honor a beloved member of their local Veterans of Foreign Wars unit who had recently passed away. The Vietnam War veteran had organized the town's Veterans Day ceremony and Memorial Day parade for many years. At each Veterans Day ceremony, he recited from memory the poem "In Flanders Fields" by Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae.

The window display included a poppy-covered red dress on a dress form; a replica of a World War I uniform also on a dress form; two silk patriotic wreaths on stands; a banner with a poppy motif; and a foam core sign on a small stand that provided biographical information about the veteran. The inspiration for the poppy dress



came from Pinterest, and the banner and foam core sign were ordered from VistaPrint. After taking down the display, the chapter presented the biographical sign and a flower bouquet to the veteran's widow.

An instructional video to recreate the poppy dress is available on the DAR Magazine Committee Webpage in the Resources section. With hundreds of poppies needed, multiple chapter volunteers helped to cut and form poppies from crepe paper sheets. The supply list included in the video is from 2020, so some supply sources may no longer be available. Please pause the video as needed. The poppies faded because of the sun and heat from the exterior-facing display window, so the dress was functional only for a two-week display period. 🌻

DAR Recipe



(None Left) Deviled Eggs

Most of the cooking that I do and that I learned from my grandmothers and mother is not based on written recipes. These dishes are old standbys we have made so many times and are frequently modified based on the ingredients that we have on hand.



This dish originated as a recipe in my great-grandmother's *Better Homes & Gardens New Cookbook* from 1953. It was handed down, and each generation has made slight modifications to make it what it is today. It is one of my favorite

things to bring to picnics, housewarmings or holiday feasts, and there are never any leftovers—these eggs are so good that we have started referring to them as “none left” deviled eggs.

With the recipe made so many times, the “egg” tab in the original cookbook has worn completely off. Every time I make these, it reminds me of the generations of women who have come before.

— Simran K. Noon



Ingredients:

- 6 hard-boiled eggs
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1–2 teaspoons white vinegar, to taste
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- ¼ teaspoon regular prepared yellow mustard, for coloring
- A pinch or two of white sugar
- Dill weed and paprika, for finishing

Instructions:

If you are preparing these for anyone but yourself, doubling the recipe is strongly suggested!

1. Hard boil the eggs and halve them lengthwise. Remove yolks and set whites aside in a dish. Mash yolks in a bowl with a fork or pastry cutter. Blend with the above ingredients.

2. I suggest adding vinegar and white sugar alternately to taste. The goal is the perfect combination of sweet and tangy! I tend to be heavy-handed with the vinegar.

3. Refill the egg whites with the yolk mix. Use a small melon baller scoop or a cake frosting bag and tip to pipe it in for a pretty finished look.

4. Sprinkle a small amount of paprika and dill weed on top to finish.

5. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes before serving.

Simran Noon is a member of the Linares DAR Chapter, San Diego, California. She is Honorary Chapter Regent and a member of the Lineage Research Committee, Lineage Support—Application AIRs.



Letitia Green Stevenson

Second President General (1893–1895)

Fourth President General (1896–1898)

— ILLINOIS —

Third and Fourth Continental Congresses (1894 and 1895)

Sixth and Seventh Continental Congresses (1897 and 1898)



Letitia Green Stevenson, the wife of a vice president of the United States, joined DAR in 1893. She was an organizing member of Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter, Bloomington, Illinois, formed in 1894 and named in her honor. Mrs. Stevenson was a new member of the DAR when she was elected President General.

With the selection of Mrs. Stevenson as the successor to Caroline

Scott Harrison for the Society's executive office, DAR displayed a continued preference for nationally significant and prestigious leadership. Because the National Society was still in its formative years, her administration featured several unique characteristics. Mrs. Stevenson has the distinction of being the only President General to serve nonconsecutive terms. Because each term lasted only one year during this period, she was elected four separate times. The death of her daughter, Mary, in 1895, along with her son's

illness, compelled Mrs. Stevenson to take a yearlong retirement from DAR service.

The title of Honorary President General was created in her honor, but she resigned from this position when she was elected President General again in 1896. After stepping down from office for the final time in 1898, she was named Honorary President General once again, making her the only woman to receive this title twice.

Stevenson Administration Achievements

While she could not always attend meetings because of her busy schedule, she remained devoted to DAR and earnestly strived to make it a successful organization.



President General Lelitia Green Stevenson, circa 1893

Her administration touted several important achievements. One amendment to the DAR Constitution that passed during her administration was later described by Mrs. Stevenson as "by far the most important adopted in the history of the Organization." The new amendment disallowed membership from a collateral line of descent from a Patriot and eliminated the clause "Mother of such a Patriot," which ensured each member would be directly descended from a Revolutionary War Patriot.

Two of the Society's original projects were completed during Mrs. Stevenson's administration: DAR's participation in the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 and the funding and dedication of the Mary Washington Monument. At the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, also referred to as Chicago World's Fair of 1893, Mrs. Stevenson, Mary Virginia Ellet Cabell and other prominent DAR members spoke on behalf of the Society concerning women's issues as well as the work



< Pendant medallion for the National Mary Washington Monument Association, belonging to Mary S. Lockwood, circa 1890

and progress of the Society. Mrs. Stevenson was also privileged to ring the Columbian Liberty Bell, a replica of the historic Liberty Bell sponsored by the Daughters. The Mary Washington Monument in Fredericksburg, Virginia, was dedicated in May 1894 with President Grover Cleveland, Vice President Adlai Stevenson and Mrs. Stevenson in attendance. DAR helped the Mary Washington Memorial Association raise much of the money needed to complete this monument honoring George Washington's mother.

Harriet M.S. Lothrop, a children's book author and DAR member, approached Mrs. Stevenson with the idea of creating a society like DAR but dedicated solely to a membership of children. As President General, Mrs. Stevenson supported this effort, and the resolution to create the National Society Children of the American Revolution passed at the Fourth Continental Congress in 1895.



Clockwise: DAR exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair (World's Columbian Exposition), 1893; DAR Founder Mary S. Lockwood's ticket book of passes to the World's Fair; Columbian Liberty Bell



President General Letitia Green Stevenson on stage in Memorial Continental Hall with the Founders and National Officers of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1898

Mrs. Stevenson said, "The work of the National Society is accomplished through committees." Several important committees were organized during Mrs. Stevenson's terms, including a committee to petition the U.S. Congress for a grant of land for Memorial Continental Hall, the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument Committee, and a committee to petition the U.S. Congress for a bill to prevent desecration of the United States Flag. Under her leadership, DAR also raised a significant amount of money toward the erection of a statue of George Washington in Paris.

'She not only loved the work. She loved us.'

At Continental Congress in 1894, Mrs. Stevenson presided over the dedication ceremony of a portrait of Caroline Scott Harrison, DAR's first President General, painted by Daniel Huntington and funded by the National Society. The portrait was then donated to the White House. (Read more about Mrs. Harrison and see her portrait in the May/June 2023 issue of *American Spirit*.)

Mrs. Stevenson presented another tribute at Continental Congress in 1898 in honor of the Founders of DAR: Mary Desha, Mary Smith Lockwood, Ellen Hardin Walworth and Eugenia Washington. Each received a stunning gold medal with the design of the DAR Seal and rays of sapphires and diamonds. Mrs. Stevenson received a token of appreciation and remembrance from the Society in the form of an engraved "loving cup."

Two other details make Mrs. Stevenson's administration special. Soon after the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter formed

in her home state of Illinois, the National Board adopted a change to the Bylaws stating, "Chapters must not be named for living persons." Because of this stipulation, Mrs. Stevenson was the only President General to have been a member of a chapter named in her honor.

In 1909, Julia Green Scott, Mrs. Stevenson's sister, was elected President General, making Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Stevenson the only sisters elected to the Society's highest office.

Before Mrs. Stevenson's death on Christmas Day 1913, she completed her last gift to the National Society, the publication of *Brief History: Daughters of the American Revolution*. A large gathering of DAR ladies met for a memorial service for Mrs. Stevenson at her sister's home on February 12, 1914. Many Daughters who worked with and admired Mrs. Stevenson, including those who could not attend the service, contributed eulogies to be read aloud. She was remembered as wise, gracious and strong. While suffering



Left: Photograph of President General Letitia Green Stevenson from the booklet "A Memorial in honor of Mrs. Adlai E. Stevenson," 1914; Right: DAR marker placed by the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter, Bloomington, Illinois, honoring President General Letitia G. Stevenson and her sister President General Julia G. Scott on their shared gravesite, 1967

from severe arthritis and often requiring a leg brace, she continued to devote all her energies to DAR and other public service.

In her eulogy for Mrs. Stevenson, Bella F. Rollins wrote: "Constantly forgetful of herself and oftentimes at a sacrifice of her own physical strength, she helped us in many ways, and was always determined to give her best. Her ear was ever alert to hear our needs, her wise counsel always given. She not only loved the work. She loved us." 🌸

Note From the Editor: This profile of Mrs. Stevenson is an adaptation of the profile in *Wide Blue Sash*.





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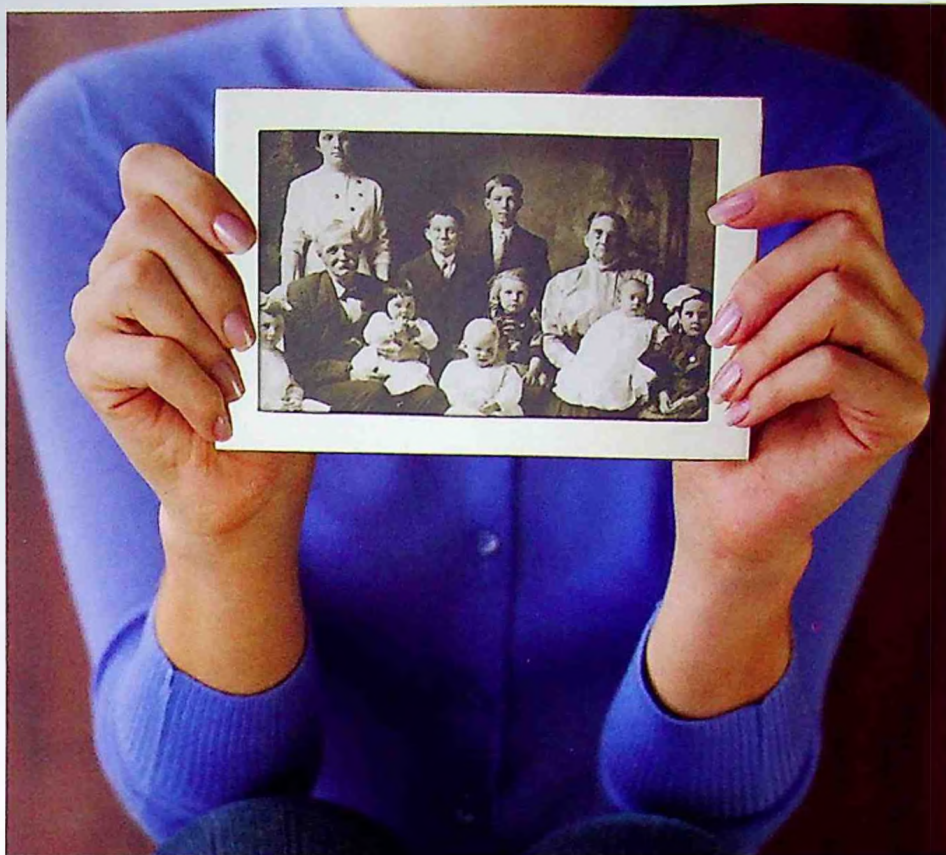
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HONOR, COMMEMORATE & CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Illustration by Susan Rios. www.susanriosdesigns.com



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Who is eligible for membership?

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. DAR volunteers are willing to provide guidance and assistance with your first step into the world of genealogy.

How is 'Patriot' defined?

DAR recognizes Patriots not only as soldiers, but also anyone who contributed to the cause of American freedom. To find out if your ancestor is recognized by the DAR as a Revolutionary Patriot, use the request form available online. Visit **www.dar.org** and click on "Membership."

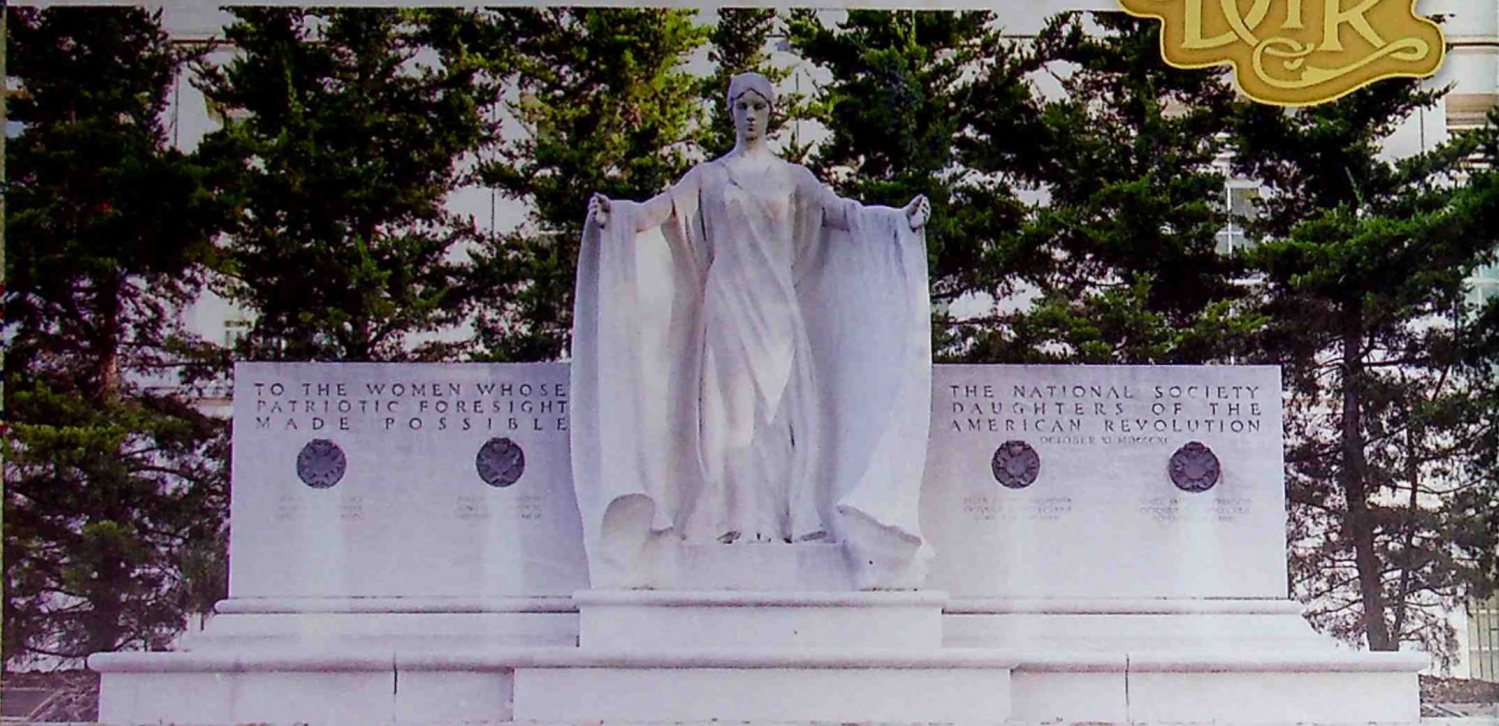
How many members does the National Society have?

DAR has nearly 190,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 14 foreign countries and one territory. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 1 million members.

How can I find out more?

Go to **www.dar.org** and click on "Membership." There you will find helpful instructions, advice on finding your lineage and a Prospective Member Information Request Form. Or call (202) 879-3224 for more information on joining this vital, service-minded organization.

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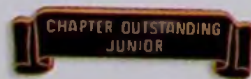
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